



Recruitment drive to attract extra 'home-grown' staff

# HOSPITAL TAKES ON MORE NURSES

Report by Nigel Slater

**RUSSELLS Hall Hospital is recruiting 55 nurses in a multi-million pound investment.**

Bosses at the Dudley hospital have launched a recruitment campaign in a bid to attract dozens of 'home-grown' nursing staff.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, is holding a recruitment open day on Saturday, July 11.

The event, to fill a total of 55 positions, follows a £3.1million investment made last year which aims to boost the hospital's front line staff.

The day itself will see the Trust recruit in specific areas including its emergency assessment unit, emergency department, short stay medical ward, surgery, trauma and orthopaedic and elderly care and community.

Visitors to the open day will have the chance to spend time with the nursing teams and to visit the departments. A similar recruitment drive was held in November last year at the hospital which attracted more than 40 new nursing staff.

Hospital bosses have previously taken their recruitment drive overseas to help fill vacancies with more than 50 nurses recruited from countries including Spain, Portugal and Romania.

Another main reason for the drive is to help plug the national nursing shortage.

The issue has been clouded in debate over the past few days with outgoing chief executive of the Royal College of Nursing, RCN, Dr Peter Carter warning the NHS faces bankruptcy as nurses are 'ground down' by working conditions and poor pay.

## Committed

Chief Nurse at Russells Hall Hospital, Dawn Wardell, said: "We need more amazing and talented nurses to join our committed staff to help us build on the success we've had, and so we are opening our doors to tempt home-grown talent to come and join us.

"We are one of the top performing Trusts in the country for consistently exceeding the four-hour target, placing us in the top ten nationally. To be a nurse at The Dudley Group is to be part of something special. Our patients rate us with 4.5 out of 5 stars on NHS Choices and our staff survey results are in the top 20 nationally."

Pam Smith, deputy chief nurse, said "We've had fantastic interest shown already on the recruitment day with more than 2,000 hits on the NHS Jobs page and more interest shown on our Facebook page. We feel there are plenty of talented nurses in the UK and we want to maximise their potential here."

## BLACK COUNTRY MOURNS BEACH TERROR VICTIMS



Three generations of a Black Country family killed in the Tunisia beach massacre — Patrick Evans, Joel Richards and Adrian Evans

HUNDREDS have paid their respects to the three generations of a Black Country family murdered in the Tunisia beach massacre.

The tributes came as the Prime Minister announced that a national one minute's silence would be held to commemorate all the victims tomorrow (Friday) at noon.

The football community has united to remember devoted Saddlers fans Joel Richards, his uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Patrick Evans, who were killed when a gunman opened fire on sun bathers in the resort of Sousse.

Sandwell Council worker Mr Evans, of Bilston, his father, 78-year-old Patrick, and 19-year-old football referee and student Joel, of Wednesbury, were among 38 people murdered in the horror attack.

Schoolboy Owen Richards, Joel's younger brother, was the only survivor of the family trip. He was injured in the attack.

A shrine has been set up outside Walsall's Banks's Stadium and hundreds visited to leave an array of shirts, scarves, flowers and messages. Tributes have continued to flood in from heartbroken friends and colleagues

after they were named among around 30 Britons believed to have been killed by Kalashnikov-wielding 23-year-old Tunisian student Seifeddine Rezgui on Friday.

Former Birmingham City player Denis Thwaites and his wife Elaine were also confirmed as being among the dead. The 70-year-old and his wife, 69, who lived in Blackpool, were staying at the Imperial Marhaba Hotel. Denis joined Birmingham City in 1961 and retired from the game in 1972.

Suspected associates of the gunman were arrested on Monday.

## FESTIVAL

### Town prepares for revival of carnival

PREPARATIONS for the first Halesowen Carnival in three decades have been finalised ahead of the event on Saturday.

Thousands of people are expected to attend the revived carnival at Highfield Park, Halesowen, from noon to 7pm.

Popular Halesowen comedian Tommy Munden, who died last year, will be remembered with a tribute at the event and his family are guests of honour.

Music, stalls, displays and fairground attractions are planned for the big day, part of the Black Country Festival.

## SPEEDWAY

### Heathens look at M5 site for stadium

CRADLEY Heathens speedway bosses are looking at a proposed enterprise zone, next to the M5 near Quinton, as the potential answer to its long-running search for a permanent home.

Bosses have held talks with Dudley Council about a stadium being included in the proposals for the land close to Junction 3.

The club lost its Dudley Wood home two decades ago and, after spells at Stoke and Wolverhampton, now shares Birmingham's Perry Barr Stadium.

## PLANNING

### New care complex given the green light

A 66-bed care complex will be built in Halesowen, replacing a 1960s nursing home on the site and creating 42 jobs.

The £5 million plan was given the green light this week and includes the demolition of Shenstone Care Home in Kent Road.

All 31 residents were moved and 51 staff redeployed within Dudley Council's care service after it was closed by the authority three years ago.

The new three-storey centre provided by Black Country Housing Group will include a number of rooms specifically adapted for people living with dementia, and six bungalows for independent living.

## INSIDE

### GET READY FOR ALL THAT JAZZ



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**EDITORIAL:**  
Tel: 01384 335202  
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

**SPORTS:**  
Tel: 01902 319453  
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

**PHOTOGRAPHIC:**  
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

**ADVERTISING:** Nicola Cope  
Tel: 01902 319573  
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

**PROPERTY:** Marguerita Finnegan  
Tel: 01902 319627  
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

**MOTORING:** Liz Barratt  
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# Plan to provide 281 homes in quarry

COUNCILLORS are set to look at major restoration plans for a disused quarry in the Black Country which would include the development of more than 280 homes on the site.

A 30-year masterplan to transform the Edwin Richards Quarry in Rowley Regis was revealed in May, with environmental experts confident the plans offer a viable way forward for the site.

FCC Environment is leading the project to overhaul the quarry, which has lain dormant since 2004. The firm claims it is offering a 'realistic

and deliverable restoration' of the land. In a statement, FCC said: "The site as it stands presents health and safety management issues in terms of public access and has limited end-use to the wider public."

The 281 homes could be built on the southern edge of the quarry site by the beginning of the next decade, but the overall project to fill in the land would take up to 30 years.

It is hoped the gaping hole that is the quarry will eventually become open green space to be used by residents of the new homes.

The plans have come before Sandwell Council's planning committee.

However, the plans could hit a snag after nearby residents and businesses lodged objections to the way the work to restore the site would be undertaken.

**Lorries**

A huge waste management facility would be built on the site in order to manage the tens of thousands of tonnes of soil. Some 6,000 tons of materials would be driven to the site in

lorries every week. A gas utilisation plant and a waste vehicle depot would also be built and the scale of the operation, and the prospect of odours omitting from the development site, has made some people wary.

Five objections have been lodged, relating to environmental issues and noise.

Rowley Regis councillor Chris Tranter said he supported the plans to develop the quarry, but raised concerns about the impact vehicles travelling to the site during the project would have.

# Mother cleared over shaking her ill baby

**A LOVING mother, who thought her baby was dying when she shook him in an ill-advised resuscitation bid, has been exonerated by a High Court judge.**

Mr Justice Keehan said the Black Country mother, in her 20s, who cannot be named for legal reasons, would have to live with the knowledge that she may have left her baby boy with brain damage.

She had acted in 'extreme panic' when her son collapsed. The judge ruled that she could not be blamed.

The baby was removed from his parents' care after he was taken to A&E at Russells Hall Hospital on New Year's Day, 2014. The judge's ruling meant that the boy, now aged two, would now be going home to his loving parents.

The boy was not yet aged one when he developed a cold and chest infection, the High Court in London heard. He was on antibiotics and his mother was desperately worried about potential cot death.

When he awoke in the early hours of New Year's Day, the baby turned bright red and then went 'deathly pale'.

## Recovery

The judge said: "She panicked and attempted to revive him by picking him up with both of her hands under his arms and shaking him for a few seconds".

The couple then swiftly took him to hospital, where tests revealed bleeding on the brain and haemorrhages behind his eyes.

He has suffered seizures but medics now believe he will make a good recovery, although he might suffer learning difficulties in later life.

The judge said: "This boy's injuries resulted from an innocent but ill-advised shake by his mother. She did it with no malicious intent. Quite the reverse, she did it because she thought she was helping her son."

The judge applauded the local authority for withdrawing an accusation in the light of the medical evidence.

A consultant paediatrician said that it was 'understandable' that the boy's panic-stricken mother would try everything she could do to resuscitate him.

## New memorial to Quinton's war dead



At the new war memorial are, from left, Peter Lloyd, Paul Cork, Bernard Taylor, Roger Withers and Gordon Duggins

A PERMANENT memorial to the men and women of Quinton killed in war has been officially unveiled.

While specific memorials exist for those who died in the First and Second World Wars, the monument in Quinton Recreation Ground is the first to cover all conflicts.

It was put in place in May to coincide with the 70th anniversary of VE Day, having been funded by the Birmingham City Council Community Chest.

Bernard Taylor, chairman of

the Quinton Local History Society, explained: "During the celebrations last year, commemorating the centenary of the First World War, I was asked if there was such a memorial for Quinton that the children could lay down a poppy wreath."

"Then I thought it was about time that the people of Quinton had their own war memorial, a generic one to all those who had given the ultimate sacrifice for their country."

"I approached the councillors

and asked if the society could have a grant from the ward community chest. The answer was a resounding yes."

The unveiling ceremony this week included prayers led by the rector at Christ Church, Rev Jenny Arnold, hymns, the playing of the Last Post, a minute silence and the laying of a wreath.

Children from Quinton Church Primary School placed crosses and standard-bearers represented several groups including veterans.

# Board look at bid to end legal battle over mosque

A DECISION on whether to accept an out-of-court settlement to end the long-running saga over controversial plans to build a new mosque in Dudley is hanging in the balance after councillors referred the issue to a scrutiny board.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) has offered Dudley Council £325,000 to drop court action blocking plans to build the mosque off Hall Street.

If the proposal from the DMA is accepted, the group would retain ownership of the site and the council would end its bid to invoke its buy-back clause.

But at a Dudley Council cabinet meeting last week councillors referred the matter to the council's overview and scrutiny management board for discussion.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, said the board would meet next month and listen to the facts before making recommendations to cabinet.

He said: "They will call witnesses, whoever they wish, to analyse the facts in an open and transparent manner before reaching their conclusions."

Councillor Lowe has already ruled out staging a local referendum on the issue.

Dudley Council and the DMA are due back in court in October. So far the council has spent £213,000 in legal costs. The value of the site is around £150,000.

More than 80,000 people signed petitions against plans for the mosque, replacing Dudley Central Mosque at Castle Hill.

# Hot air balloon lands by homes

HOUSEHOLDERS in Wollaston were amazed when a hot air balloon landed near their homes.

The craft came down off Wentworth Road, near the Kingsway shops, in Wollaston, near Stourbridge.

Video footage posted on social media website Twitter showed the blue and yellow balloon making a landing shortly before 9.30pm on Saturday evening.

It can clearly be seen moving from the skies to land behind a row of houses as surprised locals look on.

After the balloon landed safely, people nearby took to social media to post pictures and comments.

To watch the video footage of the balloon's surprise arrival see the website [expressandstar.com](http://expressandstar.com)

# Moscow circus big top at Merry Hill

THE Moscow State Circus is visiting Brierley Hill next week to perform a show based on a Russian folk story.

The big top will be at the car park at the Merry Hill shopping centre July 8 to 12. There will be a box office on site from July 6, 9am-9pm, tickets from £7.

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# Town now grows for gold with bloom time

HALESOWEN really is in bloom with organisers declaring they are 'growing for gold' as the annual competition gets into full swing.

After winning a silver gilt last year, Halesowen in Bloom organisers are hoping to go one better this year when judges visit on July 15.

The campaign has seen gardens, buildings and shop fronts around the town completely transformed by colourful flowers as the community comes together to make a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

Among the activities that have been taking place is a partnership between Halesowen CE Primary School and the Black Country Bee Society to provide new hives at a site, which is a safe distance from the school.

Wild flower seeds have been planted on Earls Island where five beech trees have also been planted by Sandvick to commemorate 100 years in the UK. The residents of Halas Homes have provided bird boxes and bug homes on their site.

Students with learning difficulties and disabilities at Halesowen College have also designed a large planter outside St John's Church.

Eve O'Connor, chairman of Halesowen in Bloom, said: "We are currently growing for gold. We've got hundreds of volunteers and community groups working on a range of different projects across the town including painting and weeding.

"Everyone is working to get the town in tip-top shape ahead of the judges arrival."

## Aldi want to open Lye supermarket

ALDI has lodged plans for a new store in Lye, creating 40 jobs.

The 13,497 sq ft budget supermarket would be built on a former industrial site off Thorns Road. A car park with 119 spaces will also be created.

The planning application, submitted to Dudley Council, has been welcomed by Councillor Mohammed Hanif.

"I do think Lye is in need of a new supermarket and this is an ideal location," he said.

"Lye also desperately needs new jobs, which this development will bring. I have no reservations about these plans."

Aldi also want to build at store at the site of the King Arthur Pub on Birmingham New Road, Dudley.

## New Black Country Festival phone app

A FREE phone app has been launched to keep people up-to-speed with this year's Black Country Festival.

The app can now be downloaded onto smartphones at [www.freecom.net/blackcountryfestival](http://www.freecom.net/blackcountryfestival)

# Father's death brings road safety probe



Family man Dave Hinton

HIGHWAYS chiefs will investigate whether to introduce safety measures on a road where a father-of-eight was killed.

Dave Hinton died after being hit by a car as he strapped his child into the back seat of the family's Peugeot in Oakham Road on June 20.

People who live on the busy road say changes to improve the safety of the road are long overdue and that they have witnessed crashes before in the 30mph zone.

The 47-year-old from Halesowen had visited a house to collect a Wendy house which he had bought online. He had just fastened his children in his car when he

and his car were struck by the Volkswagen Polo.

Dudley Council has now confirmed it will carry out an investigation to see whether traffic calming is needed.

Kyra Thomas, aged 42, was among those who rushed to help the family in the aftermath of the smash.

She said: "It is not something I want to witness again but unfortunately unless something is done on this road I will. My husband has messaged the council about it. We have had cars overturned here."

Adele Northall, aged 32, who lives opposite the crash site, said: "Definitely

something needs to be done. People use it as a cut through so we get quite a lot of traffic down here."

Residents have suggested a range of traffic measures that could improve the situation, including speed cameras and humps.

Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services at Dudley Council, said: "Our thoughts are very much with the family at this difficult time.

"We will be carrying out an investigation in partnership with the police. We cannot comment further until these investigations are complete."

# Enterprise zone under fire over green belt

**CAMPAIGNERS** fear part of the green belt could be swallowed up by a new enterprise zone earmarked for land beside the M5 in Halesowen, if plans are given the go-ahead.

Dudley Council is looking at whether it is feasible to develop land near junction 3 of the motorway in a bid to create around 6,000 jobs.

Bosses have confirmed the site, which borders Manor Way and the motorway, could include green belt land.

As the proposals are at an early stage, the exact location has not been revealed.

The plans have come under fire from Hales Owen Abbey Trust, which fears it could have a devastating impact on the green belt.

There are also concerns about the impact on nearby Halesowen Abbey.

Mick Freer, acting honorary secretary, said: "It is a very special landscape associated with the vista from and to the renowned Clent Hills. This is beautiful, historic countryside that Dudley Council are seriously threatening - make no mistake of that."

### Concerns

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris says he has reservations about the scheme.

He said: "This proposal raises real concerns about the impact on the green belt around Halesowen and the proximity of historic sites such as the Halesowen Abbey.

"Also the affects on local infrastructure such as the A456 and other local roads would be considerable.

"We currently do not have any detail on this proposal or location of this site. While always happy to debate about how to create more jobs and get more investment in the Black Country, I have profound reservations about this proposal. We urgently need more detail."

Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley Council's development boss, said: "We know already that there are significant concerns being expressed by people in the immediate area around the proposed study site, which we completely understand.

"However, I would stress at this time that what we are proposing is a study to see whether there is scope for such a site near to junction three of the M5."

## Dancing Grannies warm up for run



Organiser Alan Bowler with Dancing Grannies Fizzog members Jacky Fellows, Sue Hawkins and Deb Nicholls

MORE than 1,000 runners will be donning their trainers to hit the streets of Halesowen on Sunday.

Final preparations are under way ahead of the Black Country Road Run, which is this year part of the Black Country Festival.

Organised by officials from Halesowen & Rowley Regis Rotary Club and Halesowen Cycling & Athletics Club, it will see participants set off on two routes around the town.

A 10k run will leave Somers Square at 9am followed by a 5k fun run at 11am.

Black Country comedy group The Fizzogs as the Dancing Grannies will lead a mass warm-up to get runners ready for action before Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho starts the 10k race.

Councillor Waltho will then join the runners pounding the pavements on the 5k route along with Mayoress Jayne Waltho.

Event director Alan Bowler said more than 1,000 runners had signed up. "The event is really growing, which is fantastic," he added.

Councillor Waltho, who is running on behalf of his five chosen charities, said: "We hope there will be a big turnout on the day."

Mercedes-Benz of Stourbridge, one of the sponsors, is offering a 4x4 driving experience to the runner who collects the most money.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## 50 workers to be axed by college

AROUND 50 staff at Birmingham Metropolitan College will be made redundant.

The college, which has 1,600 staff at sites in Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Great Barr and Kidderminster, revealed in April up to 250 jobs could be axed due to a reduction in funding.

Bosses had hoped to cut the posts through voluntary redundancies but have now confirmed compulsory job losses will be required. Principal Andrew Cleaves said: "We are consulting further with staff to minimise the impact wherever possible."

## Charity is seeking homes for kittens

CATS and kittens in need of homes will be the centre of attention at a pet charity's open day on Saturday.

Halesowen Cats Protection are urging people to attend the re-homing event taking place at United Church, Hagley Road, Halesowen, from 2pm until 4pm. Visitors can see some of the cats and kittens and get information about neutering and animal care.

Pet fosterer Pat Hughes, of Halesowen, said: "We have a lot of cats and kittens in our care that are in need of new home." To find out more, call 0121 401 1984.

## Coffee morning to discuss service

A LIBRARY is staging a coffee morning for residents to get more involved.

The Friends of Long Lane Library in Halesowen are inviting residents to join them at an informal event at the library on July 18 to discuss the service. Tea and coffee will be provided and there will be a raffle and home-baked cakes for a small donation to raise funds for the friends group. The library service is looking to establish friend groups to help at all Dudley borough libraries.

## Tennis ace Jordanne served up a sponsor

WHEELCHAIR tennis champion Jordanne Whitley has received sponsorship from an insurance firm.

Halesowen-born Jordanne, who was recently awarded an MBE for services to sport, has secured backing from specialist disabled insurance firm Fish Insurance to pursue her international career.

Jordanne, aged 22, has already won four international titles this year. She will post on The Hub, a disability news blog featured on Fish's website.

## Comics at the library

POETRY on Loan is funding an evening of comic poems at Halesowen Library. The Funny Men event in the Shenstone Theatre on July 15 will feature poets Fergus McGonigal and Jonny Fluffypunk. Refreshments at 6.45pm with poetry from 7.15pm. Tickets cost £3, call (01384) 812980.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE Confederate flag, now regarded as a factor in the South Carolina church massacre, is cherished by old Southerners as a symbol of what they believe was a cultured, romantic and rural society, laid waste by the brute forces of Northern industry. Steel and iron trampled on cotton, it is a monstrously distorted view of history but it will surely be driven underground and reinforced by the banning of the flag.

"PENSIONER fights for right to kiss his wife" is a typical headline on the tragic story of Thomas and Joan Middleton. He is 87, she is 84 and in a care home with dementia. He wants to kiss her but staff say she complains about his attentions. This is a terrible dilemma, familiar to thousands of families but barely mentioned in the Alzheimer's debate. Joan is Thomas's wife. He loves her but it seems she has no idea who he is. He has become not only a stranger to her but an unwelcome stranger. Like so many dementia victims, she may have no memory of ever having been married. The wicked thing about dementia is that it steals more than one life.



BRITAIN'S favourite garden-er utters the gardening term "bastard trenching" and the BBC feels it has to apologise. A viewer emailed: "Alan Titchmarsh just swore on TV. I think that's one of the signs of the Apocalypse." We hacks are not particularly offended by Titchmarsh's b-word. When a story is set in print not across one or two columns but across one-and-a-half columns, it is known as a bastard measure. In metalworking, the same word is commonly used. Files are gauged by their roughness as follows: rough, middle, bastard, second cut, smooth, and dead smooth. Just like people, really.

THE Tim Hunt spat rumbles on. A female correspondent to the Times, supporting the professor's sacking for alleged sexist comments, asks how would men like it if they were referred to as boys. Actually, we boys would not mind in the slightest. And what a lonely, miserable existence it must be to be a woman who never, ever enjoys a night out with the girls.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Centuries-old path is in line for restoration

**A FRIENDS' group has announced plans to restore a listed heritage footpath in Halesowen, which dates back a thousand years.**

The Friends of Coombeswood Wedge are hoping to start the second phase of restoration work on The Holloway in the coming months.

They are aiming to create natural steps and improve the drainage along the entire length of the historic path which runs through the beauty spot near Mucklow Hill.

by Heather Large

The Holloway was originally a livestock drivers round which led from Birmingham towards the Welsh Marshes.

Deep cutting and erosion, caused by the animals passing through, is still evident in the path, which is an officially listed public footpath by Dudley Council.

The original path underwent an initial restoration phase in 1987 by Halesowen Abbey Trust, with further work being undertaken in 1993.

### Picturesque

Sue Yeadon, member of Friends of Coombeswood Wedge, said: "The restoration will be a lovely addition to what already is a picturesque setting."

"We hope that the natural steps that will be created will ensure sustainability for the future, as well as helping the path to become more accessible."

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said:

"Restoring the paths to their former glory is an area of great importance for the friends group. They have worked so hard."

"The area is a key historic part of Halesowen and it is great to see members of the community wanting to maintain and improve it for both themselves and the borough."

The friends group says the 120-acre Coombeswood Wedge, near Mucklow Hill, is home to valuable wildlife such as bats, owls, and rare butterflies. It is also a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

The historic Monarchs Way footpath winds its way through part of the Coombeswood site.

Improvements were recently made to a Cradley park where a £70,000 project to create a series of new footpaths has been completed. The work has been carried out at Homer Hill Park.

## Manager buys centre's Quest



Manager Mark Knox pictured at The Quest in Merry Hill

THE Quest entertainment zone at Merry Hill shopping centre has been saved from closure after being sold for a six-figure sum to its manager.

Mark Knox has bought the zone from Paragon Entertainment, seven months after the firm announced it planned to close.

Mr Knox said he was likely to be increasing the number employed at the entertainment zone as well as preserving the existing jobs.

The zone, which includes an indoor high rope course, mini golf and Nerf blaster range, was opened in November 2012 by Paragon Entertainment. But Paragon announced last November that it planned to shut the loss-making attraction within six months.

Paragon's interim chief executive Mark Pyrah has now confirmed that Quest, which had an asset value of £121,000, had been sold to Mr Knox, a member of the Paragon management team and manager of Quest.

"He has some exciting plans for the future of Quest," said Mr Pyrah.

Mr Knox confirmed the sale had gone through but was not willing to disclose the exact price.

## Council blitz on housing fraudsters

TENANTS in Dudley are flouting rules by sub-letting homes and not using them as their main dwelling.

Dudley Council launched more than 460 investigations in 12 months and uncovered 164 cases of housing fraud. The authority also seized 60 properties after discovering tenants breaking the regulations.

People were caught giving the wrong information on housing applications, unlawful sub-letting their homes and not using their rented properties as their main home.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "Housing fraud is taken very seriously here in Dudley. Over the past 12 months there have been 164 incidents of fraud which includes anything from giving the wrong information on housing applications, to unlawful sub-lets, to properties not being used as the main home."

"There have been 460 investigations in the last year and 60 properties recovered."

"Housing staff work hard to ensure that everyone knows and understand the rules on obtaining and living in council properties. The vast majority of tenants adhere to this."

"Anyone who cheats to get a council house or uses any of our properties for any unlawful purposes will be found and prosecuted."

Figures show Dudley Council was owed £2.5 million in unpaid council tax.

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# £5.2m is spent on agency staff by schools in borough

**SCHOOLS** in Sandwell have spent more than £5.2 million employing agency staff during 12 months, new figures reveal. Casual workers are brought in to cover sickness absences and maternity leave to ensure pupils do not miss lessons.

Money can also be spent on bringing in additional teaching specialists and coaches for some subjects or year groups. While agency staff are commonly also drafted in to help with exams, such as supervisors, and recruitment.

## Wright way for fashion at Gas Hall

TV presenter Mark Wright has been announced as the host for this year's Style Birmingham Live

The city's fashion and shopping event will take place on September 26 and 27. It will see Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's Gas Hall transformed to showcase the latest autumn/winter styles and collections from a host of high street retailers and shopping centres.

The event will feature eight catwalk shows across the weekend, all hosted by Wright. The presenter said: "I'm a big fan of Birmingham and the people have always been so welcoming."

Steve Hewlett, from organisers Retail Birmingham said: "We're very excited to be bringing Style Birmingham Live back with Mark Wright as host plus with an exciting mix of retailers and stunning catwalk models, this year's event will be the best yet."

Tickets are available from [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com)

The total bill for the 2014/15 financial year was £5,212,275, which was up from £4,827,259 in 2013/14. The figures, revealed under the Freedom of Information Act, do not include academies, which run independently, but relate to primary schools, secondary schools and special schools.

Sandwell Council does not get involved in school finances as each school controls their own budget and decides on any additional staff they need to bring in. A total of £3,957,236 was spent by the borough's primaries, £771,550 by secondaries and £483,489 by special schools.

### Encourage

The amount spent per school between April 2014 - March 2015 ranged from £338 to £331,179.64. Around 80 primary, five secondary, and four special schools paid to use agency staff during the 12 months. The borough's education chief Councillor Simon Hackett said: "We do encourage schools to appoint full-time, permanent staff members where possible."

Among the biggest spending primary schools were Uplands Manor in Smethwick where the bill was £240,087.81 and Galton Valley, also in Smethwick, which paid out £157,760.86. Yew Tree spent £141,790.70 and Guns Village in West Bromwich spent £123,941.74.

## Plaque marks Indian Army exploits



Oldbury Royal British Legion unveil a plaque to commemorate Sikh and other Asian soldiers' efforts. From left, Harcharan Singh Bahra, Ranvir Singh Viri, Dal Singh Dhesi, S Sgt Sachin Handa, Nigel Avery, David Williams and Nobby Clarke. A PLAQUE honouring the dedication and achievements of the Indian Army during both world wars has been unveiled in the Black Country.

Six Victoria Cross recipients are included in the commemorative display which is now hanging proudly on the wall at the Royal British Legion club in Oldbury.

Members had been asked by the Sikh Community and Youth Service (SCYS), based in Handsworth, Birmingham, to consider installing a

memorial plaque. Branch chairman and Army Cadet Force instructor Sgt Adrian Dunn said they were only too happy to oblige.

Indian soldiers fought alongside British troops in both the First and Second World Wars but their efforts have only been fully recognised in recent years. Eighteen soldiers received The Victoria Cross - the highest award for gallantry - for action in the First World War and 30 following the Second World War. Of those, six were cho-

sen to be featured with photographs on the plaque unveiled at the club in Windsor Road. They include Captain Ishar Singh, who was the first Sikh to be awarded the honour for his 'most conspicuous bravery and devotion' following the First World War and Parkash Singh, whose VC recognising his 'selfless devotion' is displayed at the Imperial War Museum. The club had received support from B J T Fencing & Sheds to fund the plaque.

## Libraries to swing away the summer

WITH free live Jazz and Blues music and opportunities to showcase local talent, Sandwell's libraries are looking to create a cool and relaxed vibe this summer.

Local and international musicians will be performing at a series of shows as part of the 31st Birmingham International Jazz and Blues Festival, Sandwell Libraries' charity talent contests and Sandwell Arts Festival.

The renowned Birmingham International Jazz and Blues Festival which runs from Friday 3 July until Sunday 12 July is organised by Big Bear Records and is bringing a fantastic array of performers to events in Birmingham and the Black Country.

To complement the festival, Sandwell Libraries are organising a series of other Jazz and Blues-themed events during the festival and beyond. These include the All That Jazz talent contest for adults and the WOW Factor talent contest for young people in aid of BUDS (Better Understanding of Dementia in Sandwell), the library service's nominated charity for 2015.

Age categories for the WOW Factor are 7-12 years and 13-19 years.

The Grand Final of the All That Jazz heats takes place at Central Library, West Bromwich on Saturday July 11 at 7.30pm with the WOW Factor Grand Final on Saturday October 3.

Sandwell Arts Festival gets under way on Wednesday August 12 and is celebrating the life of West Bromwich-born internationally acclaimed actress Madeleine Carroll.

Continuing until Sunday 23 August, there'll be a fun-packed programme of activities including making large street puppets, live music, film screenings, arts clubs and more in libraries and other venues.

All events are free and there's something for all ages.

For more information please contact: 0121 569 4904 or visit the Sandwell Libraries website.

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews

# Bringing ID cards in through back door

AS night follows day, when the DVLA suddenly announced it was going to scrap paper driving licences, it was inevitable the computers were going to crash. Our government agencies don't lead the world in many areas, but when it comes to developing duff computer systems, they truly are in a league of their own.

But there is another, slightly disturbing aspect.

To get a security code which will enable, say, hire car companies to check your driving licence, you need to enter not just your driving licence number, but your National Insurance number as well.

Just when did this data become the property of the DVLA?

For the past 25 years or so governments of all colours have been slaving at the idea of introducing some form of ID card. But the plans have always been stymied by public resistance to anything so authoritarian.

Now, anyone who drives a car must apply for a photo card, which has to be updated every 10 years, and that for some unexplained reason is tied to your National Insurance file.

Don't be surprised if, some time during the next 10 years, the powers-that-be introduce something called a 'smart licence', perhaps on a voluntary basis to begin with.

It will no doubt contain a microchip, which will progressively be updated in the years that follow, and before you know it, the ID card has come in by the back door. Smart ID cards, of course.

GOING in for what is fashionably known as 'rebranding', Wolverhampton City Council has decided it no longer wants to be known as Wolverhampton City Council, but the City of Wolverhampton. That should improve public services no end.

The council says it won't cost the taxpayer a penny. But aside from the fact I can no longer hear the word 'branding' without thinking of the awful driving instructor in the Vistaprint ads, why does any council need to worry about that sort of thing? It's not as if people can take their custom elsewhere, and defect to a council with a more forward-thinking, go-ahead logo. Whatever the emblem, we are stuck with the council we have got.

What is really wrong, though, is the way that the council has commandeered the identity of the city itself. Wolverhampton council is not the same as the City of Wolverhampton. The city can trace its roots back 1,030 years, to the days of Lady Wulfruna, and is viewed with great pride and affection by most of its inhabitants.

Wolverhampton council, in its present form, dates back to 1974, and is a public sector body responsible for maintaining the street lights and emptying the bins. Not the same at all.



Vulnerable runaways are targeted while living on the streets



Serious issues – police and crime commissioner David Jamieson



Cultural change – Assistant Chief Constable Carl Foulkes

# Shocking scale of grooming revealed

**PETE MADELEY** looks at how child sexual exploitation is being addressed in the light of the latest police reports

**THE shocking scale of trafficking and grooming gangs across the West Midlands has been revealed in a series of police reports.**

Official documents dating back to 2009 show West Midlands Police was not fully aware of the extent of the region's high level of vulnerable youngsters and how to deal with the problem.

One report says that although the majority of suspects were from an Asian background, police were concerned about the dangers of racial stereotyping when dealing with incidents of abuse. Another details the lack of trust between police and social workers. Reports also show how children living at home were targeted with more frequency than those in care.

## Escalating

It has also emerged that the force's failure to cope with the rising problem was so acute, the identities of many of those engaged in the abuse was either not known or outdated.

Police difficulties in dealing with the widespread and escalating scale of the abuse has not been made public until now.

In Sandwell in 2010, two vulnerable young women were noted as being 'at high risk' of sexual exploitation. Police believe they were being groomed – or were already being sexually exploited – at the time of the report.

Two other young women were identified as being at high risk in Dudley, along with six girls in Walsall during the same period.

Officers in Wolverhampton, where two groups of young women had been identified, said alcohol, drugs and acts of physical violence were 'key levers' used by offenders to groom victims into prostitution. The reports also reveal the largest proportion of victims, at 44 per cent, did not reside in children's homes and lived with their parents or other family



Files show police were not fully aware of the extent of the problem

members. "The force has very limited insight into the threat, and the intelligence profile related to children who are not in care is non-existent," a document said.

"The current situation poses significant challenges for West Midlands Police in protecting children." Victims were also said to frequently abscond from their family homes, leading to calls for the force to improve the way it deals with such situations. The most common offenders were said to be Pakistani males aged between 16 and 26, and the majority of the victims were white.

But the report showed senior officers had warned of the dangers of racial stereotyping amid claims of a 'widespread problem of British Pakistani men exploiting under-age white girls'. Police said 'convenience and accessibility' may be the prime drivers for those looking for victims, rather than race.

But another report, entitled Internal Human Trafficking For Sexual Exploitation Within the West Midlands, revealed that of 139 female victims, 78 per cent were white. A 'significant proportion' of the suspects were said to be of Muslim background.

The report also raised concerns about 'inadequate identification and management of threat to life issue facing victims'.

The oldest document dates from October 2009 and highlights a lack of trust between police and social workers said to be prevalent at the time. "For a number of years children in care, or residing in children's homes have repeatedly run away," it states. "Unfortunately they are often perceived to be streetwise and police officers consider them to be a nuisance and permanent drain on resources.

"Children's services, home managers and social workers are frustrated by what they per-

ceive to be a lack of interest and action from police officers. Officers are equally frustrated by their perception the workers are not protecting the children and let them run away."

The report adds children in care who regularly go missing 'receive very little police attention', despite police intelligence showing young girls were being groomed by older men who were often involved in drug trafficking and other criminality. "The safe and well check is mostly carried out by uniformed response officers and is often in an atmosphere of conflict, the girl not wanting to speak and the officer under pressure to move onto next incident. There is a need for a more formalised corporate approach."

In response, West Midlands Police says the force has undergone 'a significant cultural change' in how it investigates and tackles child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Assistant Chief Constable Carl Foulkes said: "These reports, spanning six years, give a real insight into the journey we have undertaken along with our partners into investigating and tackling child sexual exploitation. It is now very clear that the responsibility of tackling CSE lies with every police officer, staff member, PCSO and special constable.

"The force has carried out extensive work to train officers across the force in how to identify and deal with CSE so we can gain as much intelligence as possible and thereby improving the outcomes for victims.

"We continue to take great steps and as a result of our efforts and without doubt the coverage within local and national media, we are seeing more victims coming forward, knowing we will take their allegations seriously and treat them sensitively and respectfully. Tackling child sexual exploitation is at the heart of everything we do, working closely with our local authorities across the area and the respective Children's Safeguarding Boards."

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said 'serious issues' remained that police and partner agencies were working on together to tackle.

"I believe that a more consistent approach of joint working would help," he said. "We need a concerted effort and a joined-up approach to tackle child sexual exploitation in the West Midlands."

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# Race relations put back 40 years

I AM sure we are all struggling to understand why the saga concerning the building of a mosque and community centre in Dudley, is still ongoing.

Many people must wonder why the Muslim community is so adamant about developing this particular site. On the face of it, the site seems to have no real significance, in fact, there are reasons why the site is not suitable. There are many redundant industrial sites in the borough which could be made available.

We learnt as children that we simply can-

not have our own way all the time and we must have respect and adhere to the law. The council's decision must not be treated as a racial issue but a decision to be respected.

However this turns out, and it seems the council may acquiesce, there will be bad feeling on both sides of the argument. It could be argued that race relations have been put back 40 years because of the intransigence demonstrated over this issue.

**P LAWSON**  
Kingswinford

# A&E entrance 'disgusting'

I felt I had to let you know about my recent visit to Russells Hall Hospital. In the early hours of Sunday June 14 we had to visit A&E after my mother-in-law fell. We have no grievance with the treatment she received but the state of the main entrance to both the main hospital and A&E was absolutely disgusting. Both areas were littered with cigarette ends. Yet only 50 yards away are smoking shelters.

I am a health care professional and was utterly ashamed at the state of the entrance to a building that should be a beacon of good health and a healthy environment. I know it is not the hospital's fault but that of the people, who selfishly ignore signs to use the shelters provided, but surely the hospital have a duty of care to provide a clean environment.

**K DYAS**  
Shifnal

# Mosque site better for homes

I READ, with disbelief, your report on the £325,000 offered to Dudley Council to drop the court case surrounding the building of the controversial mosque.

What is more astounding is that, even after the initial declining of planning consent, the proposers have kept plugging away obviously in the knowledge that Dudley Council could be 'persuaded' one way or another.

I travel through the town on a regular basis. It is nice to see the Dudley Castle dominating the skyline. This, of course, will be lost when this mosque is built to overlook the town and the castle. It does appear to be a symbol of dominance, as was the castle when it was originally built.

Given the size of the land and the housing shortage, would it not have been better to sell to a developer for new housing? Let's face it, Dudley Council are happy to allow housing to be built on green-belt land, so why not this brownfield land?

**I DAVENPORT**  
Sedgley

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## EMAIL

dudley.chron@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

# Put controversial plan to the vote

IN response to Fatima's letter regarding Dudley mosque, I agree, I do not think people from outside Dudley should be getting involved in the town's affairs, disrupting trade and inflicting policing costs on the Dudley tax payer.

However, people have the democratic right to march and contrary to Fatima's remarks there were people from Dudley present, evident from the number of local football team shirts and Black Country flags I witnessed while carrying out my shopping that afternoon.

Dudley is my home town too and I have talked to many people from all backgrounds and political beliefs over the years reference

the mosque building saga and I must say the majority are against it. People want something built that represents all the people of Dudley borough, something everybody can enjoy and use. We must remember Muslims only represent three percent of our great borough.

My solution is simple, let the democratically elected councillors who represent the entire 313,000 people of our borough vote 'yes' or 'no' to the building of the mosque.

I emphasise the entire council of 72 as the result needs to represent the entire borough and not the political persuasion of an elite.

**P PATEL**  
Dudley

# Appointment deposit idea

A RELATIVELY easy way to deter missed appointments would be to take a deposit when the appointment is booked. This would be refunded when the patient turns up on time and kept when an appointment is missed.

This would have to apply to everyone, adults in work or receiving benefits, children and OAPs.

Everyone should take responsibility and realise that the doctor's time should not be wasted and only make appointments when other options have been tried.

**C GWILLIAMS**  
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Jacob Taylor, 9, and John Taylor of Lower Gornal enjoy the Himley Hall event



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Don Higham of Aldridge with war veteran Arthur Machin, aged 92, of Wolverhampton



Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment lead by Drum Major Dave Cox



Second World War veteran Arthur Machin, aged 92, of Wolverhampton

# Salute to the Forces

**THOUSANDS** of people across the Black Country and Staffordshire showed support of serving troops, veterans, cadets and their families at the annual Armed Forces Day commemorations.

Since its inception in 2006, then named Veterans' Day, the annual event has received widespread support from the public and this year was no different as people gathered to mark a special day of unity.

Among the biggest celebrations of the week-end was Sunday's event at Himley Hall and Park. The event, which ran from 11am to 5pm, included a presentation of the HM Armed Forces Veterans' Badge by the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho to veterans living in the borough.

Other activities included a youth marching band competition, a display of historic military vehicles and children's entertainment including a zip line.

There was also a big event in Oldbury with a parade and medal ceremony with the Mayor of

Sandwell Councillor Barbara Price carrying out the presentation.

At RAF Cosford there was a flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Dakota to mark the celebrations.

And at the RAF Museum, Cosford veterans enjoyed a day of activities, including a lunch where they will have the rare opportunity of dining amongst the aircraft and artefacts in Hangar 1.

In Wolverhampton a parade was held through the city centre of regular, reserve, veteran and cadet forces led by the Pipe Band of the West Midlands Fire Service.



Jonathan Vaughan of Pendeford from 4th Battalion Mercian with his son Johnylee, 5

## Hawthorn Windows



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# Dying teenager Omar's wedding wish came true

**THE dying wish of 16-year-old Omar Al Shaikh was to marry his teenage girlfriend.**

The youngster, who was diagnosed with leukaemia just over a year ago, did just that when he tied the knot with sweetheart Amie Cresswell during an emotional ceremony at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Just three days after he slipping a wedding ring made of flowers onto her finger, he lost his battle against the disease and his young wife was widowed. The pair had been together for eight months before Amie said 'I do'.

Amie said: "I'm still absolutely heartbroken. Omar wanted to get married before he died. We had talked about getting married but never imagined we would be 16 and we thought we would grow old together. The ceremony was so sad but really lovely."

## Match

Former air cadet Omar, from Brierley Hill, was diagnosed with leukaemia after fainting during a football match in Easter 2014.

Because of his mixed Arabic and Romanian heritage, finding a donor match proved extremely difficult and by the time stem cells could be found he was too ill to have a transplant.

After his last round of chemotherapy, on June 14 doctors told him the cancer had got into his bone marrow and he had less than one week to live.

Amie, who met Omar while they were studying at Four Dwellings Academy in Quinton, said: "We met while Omar was in remission. I knew I wanted to stand by him through it all. He is such a lovely soul."

A fundraising page has been set up to support for Omar's family. See [crowdfunding.justgiving.com/jokhalaf-1](http://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/jokhalaf-1)



Amie and Omar on their wedding day in hospital, just three days before Omar died



The teenage couple embrace moments after they became man and wife

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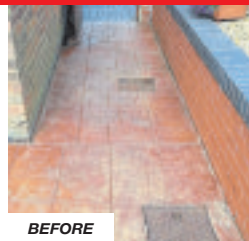
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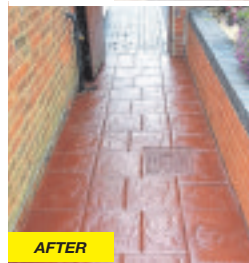
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A view of the old-fashioned, black and white movie showing the penguins enclosure



An old photo of the zoo, and more related material



The artist and film lecturer seen with his film showing the iconic zoo entrance



Adam Kossoff with the stuffed owl at the exhibition



Lubetkin and Tecton's bear ravine in all its glory

# Film teacher brings magic of zoo to life

A MULTIMEDIA exhibition organised by a Wolverhampton lecturer tells the story of Dudley Zoo and the restoration of its unique animal enclosures.

Renowned artist and writer Adam Kossoff, who also teaches film and video studies at Wolverhampton University, made a 1950s-style movie called Animal Architecture, after spending three days with a camera inside Dudley Zoo.

The film, narrated by Lenny Henry, focuses on the restoration of its unique animal enclosures, which were designed in 1937 by Modernist architect Berthold Lubetkin, while giving a unique insight into the daily routines at the zoo.

It forms the centre of an exhibition which will run at Wolverhampton Art Gallery until

## MEMORY LANE

By Jordan Harris

September 19. Mr Kossoff said: "The film is inspired by the free cinema movement and I think that style suits the atmosphere of a zoo quite nicely."

"I wanted to focus on the architecture, because Berthold Lubetkin was quite an avant garde designer and his work is amazing."

### Onesie

"The film also looks at the relationship between humans and animals and emphasises the zoo's atmosphere and its importance as a leisure and cultural attraction for local people."

"It feels like an old film because of the way it is shot and the old-fashioned architecture but the people are wearing modern clothes."

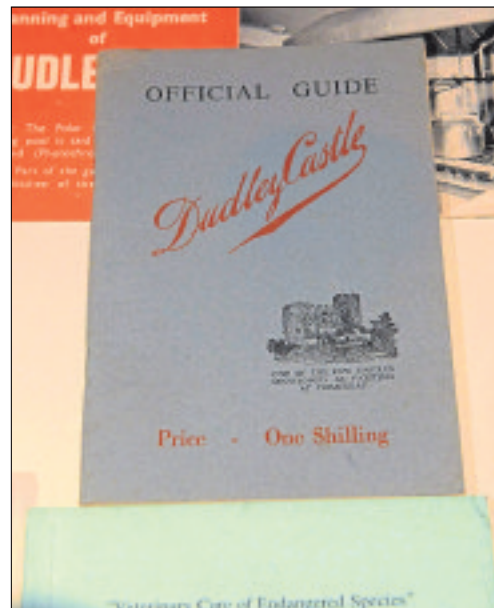
"On one of the days I was shooting, everyone who came to the zoo was wearing a onesie."

"The loss of history that occurs when we knock buildings down fascinates me and I think it is a great subject for a film maker to focus on."

"The restoration of Lubetkin's work means history is being preserved in this instance."

"It was great to get Lenny Henry to narrate the film too, it is nice that he has a bit of an accent and of course he knows all about Dudley and the zoo."

As well as the film, people can look at original design plans for Dudley Zoo, alongside artistic photographs of its enclosures and a fascinating 3D sculptural piece based around a revolving stuffed owl, which has been christened Minerva, in honour of a famous quote from philosopher Georg Wilhelm Fredrick Hegel.



Some of the documents gathered which are part of the exhibition

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# What's in a name over devolution?



**DANIEL WAINWRIGHT**  
Political Editor

**JUST** when we thought Greater Birmingham was deadlier than disco, it rears its head all over again.

If the West Midlands cannot even agree on what to call itself, talk of devolution is pointless.

To most people, the argument itself is the most mind numbingly dull and uninspiring of all.

It is, at its most basic, a question of Whitehall relinquishing its iron grip over funding and powers and letting local communities make the decision.

But it matters. It's about how much we get compared with the emerging Northern Powerhouse and the ever-expanding south east.

Once we've settled on a name we can get into all sorts of arguments over what those powers should be, whether or not the looming combined authority will replace or supercede any functions of local councils and lance the ever-present boil of a directly elected metro mayor.

## Billing

Council leaders tried to do that with the dull as ditch water 'does-what-it-says-on-the-tin' name of West Midlands Combined Authority.

No-one takes top billing and none of the cities involved – Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Coventry and even, potentially, Lichfield – can claim they are being sidelined over someone else, while the metropolitan boroughs of Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Solihull



**Andy Street, chairman of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP**

and various other districts don't feel hard-done-by either.

The problem is businesses, who will have seats at the table, don't seem to like it. It was no surprise to hear Andy Street, chairman of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership say that Birmingham should be in the title.

That LEP, by the way, proves that whatever anyone in the Black Country thinks, the title of Greater Birmingham will not go away. But when it comes from businessman Mike Dell, who is leading the Black Country Chamber of Commerce Devolution Group, alarm bells start to ring.

He says: "The name 'Birmingham' is recognised on the world stage. West Midlands is not, and we do not want to be trying to explain where we are. It is important that we put aside parochial

perspectives and work together." But people don't like it. Not around here anyway.

For the Greater Brum LEP, business leaders can argue that what's good for the city is good for the districts as many people work in one and live in the other. But that argument doesn't wash in the Black Country.

Mike Dell is absolutely right that people need to work together.

What no-one can really answer is how much, exactly, is in it for each individual area. Nor can they really say what it will eventually turn into or who is going to run it.

They can't because they're still defending their decision to not call it Greater Birmingham.

And until we get past that, the devil will stay hidden amid the real detail no-one's talking about.

## Picture



## Recycle, Match & Win

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# Heaven is a place on earth for Mika

## ALBUM REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

**FLAMBOYANT** pop star Mika, who topped the charts across Europe in 2006 with the Freddie Mercury-like Grace Kelly, is back with his fourth album, **No Place In Heaven**.

Though he hasn't been so high profile in the UK in recent years, he has continued to have hits on the continent where he has been a judge on the Italian version of The X Factor and the French version of The Voice.

And if *No Place In Heaven* fails to capture the joy de vivre of his irrepressible debut *Life In Cartoon Motion*, it comes close in places and is seldom short of enjoyable.

There is a gentle theme of empowerment and Mika even takes a well-mannered pop at the church on the title track. 'There's no place in heaven for someone like me,' he sings.

Talk About You is pure big chorus pop. All She Wants sees the falsetto return, and a more melancholy side is shown on Hurts and Ordinary Man, the piano-led latter track reminiscent of She's The One by Robbie Williams.

Sarah Cracknell, the former voice of cult '60s-inspired stylists Saint Etienne, returns with her first solo project in over 15 years on *Red Kite*. Her light-as-a-feather vocals are breathy almost to a whisper and a couple of the songs here are so gossamer delicate that they could float between your ears without making much impression, at first.

But there are some lovely melodies here including a quite gorgeous lilting motif for On The Swings (think Dusty Springfield, Sandie Shaw and French '60s pop) and the pure pop that masks a broken heart on Nothing Left To Talk About, a duet with Nicky Wire



There is a gentle theme of empowerment and Mika even takes a pop at the church

of The Manic Street Preachers. Elsewhere there are elements of pastoral folk for In The Dark, Sgt Peppered soul on Ragdoll, a Nancy Sinatra-like rocker Hearts Are For Breaking, the 60s influenced Underneath The Stars and country-pop flavoured Take The Silver, featuring The Rails.

It ends with a lovely Beach Boys-influenced lullaby, Favourite Chair... don't leave it so long for next time please Sarah.

Named I suspect after an Echo and the Bunnymen album, San Diego's *Crocodiles* hark back to the 1960s on *Boys*, a highly enjoyable blast of psychedelic pop drawing on such influences as The Velvet Underground, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Phil Spector's classic wall of sound.

Highlights include Foolin' Around, which twists the Billie Jean riff into a garage rock context as Brandon Welch deploys his best sneer, and the Boots Are Made For Walkin' stomp of Do The Void. The reverb-drenched The Boy Is A Tramp shows they can handle a change of pace to dramatically good effect.

Much-missed American band The Cramps were one of rock's wilder outfits, lurching out of Hollywood like gold-lamé clad zombies, poisoned by a diet of rockabilly and horror B-movies. **The Incredibly Strange Music Box: 60 Songs from The Cramps' Crazy Collection** is the second album to mine Poison Ivy and the late Lux Interior's record collection of raw rock, boogie, blues and novelties from the 1950s and early '60s, and its a two-CD feast of the ridiculous, odd and frantic.

Highlights include Charlie Feathers' Stutterin' Cindy and Wild Wild Party (you can see where Lux got his vocal style from), haunted house rocker Shock Treatment by The Invaders, and The Ventures' fuzzed-up proto-psycho version of Green Onions.

Glen Reeves does the Tarzan call rockabilly style, honking wildman sax from Spot Barnett on Sweetmeats and expletive-toting doo wop Don't \*\*\*\* Around With Love by The Blenders.

Amusing sleeve notes are provided by Mojo Magazine's Dave Henderson.

# Morton's magic is captured on album

## ALBUM REVIEWS

by Danny Farragher

Eddy Morton  
Rainbow Man

**IT'S** worth buying this album from prolific Midlands artist Eddy Morton for the fantastic artwork from the wonderfully named *Tawdry Piffle*.

When you have finished admiring the cover then it's time enjoy the great music inside.

Morton is an unassuming performer who runs Katie Fitzgerald's pub, Stourbridge, a hot bed of folk and traditional music, and co-organises The Stourbridge Folk Festival.

Rainbow Man is a wonderfully gentle album where Morton's easy style, experience and polished musicianship comes through on every track. Morton is a singer very much in the mould of Dylan.

Morton knows how to put a song together and doesn't mind crossing boundaries between Americana, Celtic, blues and folk.

With *The Battle for Stourbridge* Morton takes on the feel of Dick Gaughan with a more nasal/throaty grit which gives his singing a real edge. There is an impressive range of songs on this album which shows Morton's versatility. There is an emotional strength to his ballad When I'm Gone. There is also some great blues guitar on this complementing Morton's gritty voice.

Morton is one of the Black Country's hidden treasures. Many people know him as the founder of The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils, now contracted to The Bushburys, but he is much more than that. He is one of those people who never goes for the flashy eye-catching approach but when you hear him, he can stop you in your tracks. *Rainbow Man* is available now through New Mountain Music.



The distinctive artwork of Eddy Morton's new album *Rainbow Man*

Robyn Stapleton  
Fickle Fortune

The first thing which strikes you about Robyn Stapleton's debut album is how exquisitely pure her voice is.

Kicking off with a wonderfully traditional murder ballad Two Sisters, which has been covered many times, Stapleton's voice bringing a freshness to it.

There is a lovely jumping beat to the song provided by the accordion of Stephen Heffernan.

Stapleton executes a lovely languid style to her singing with the Irish song Bruach Na Carralga Baine, which means The Edge of the White Rock, and is a song of doomed love.

The Shuttle Rins, from the 19th century, tells of social change. Stapleton's light voice, during the refrain, mirrors the forward and backwards movement of the loom's shuttle.

Stapleton, from Stranraer, keeps her voice undulating with a beautiful lilt.

She won BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician award in 2014 and when you listen to Fickle Fortune you can hear why. The album is out now on Laverock Records.

Pete Shirley  
Sunset Katy and Other Stories

There is something reassuringly and wonderfully organic about Pete Shirley's new album. Like so many original folk singers Shirley is one man and his guitar.

He comes from Audley, Stoke on Trent and works full time carrying out his passion for singing and songwriting whenever he can.

Shirley has an honest voice, it's gentle and easy on the ear and you enjoy the words and the music as a combination like strawberries and cream or fish and chips.

He opens with Silver Like A Star and Shirley has this quality about his singing which is just so enjoyable. His style, although very different, brings to mind singers such as Burl Ives and Pete Seeger with songs which appear simple but you can feel there is a lot of feeling in what he sings.

His observations about nature and about the changing world around him are very poignant.

Shirley, in some ways, is a throwback to the days of Woody Guthrie.



## Age UK Dudley opening shop

AGE UK Dudley will open its first charity shop in the borough next month. It will be welcoming shoppers to the store in Maple Row, Mill Street, Brierley Hill from mid-July.

It will raise funds to support the work of Age UK Dudley and the services it runs for older people in the borough.

Chief executive Jim Cameron said: "We are delighted to be opening our first shop and I hope it will be one of a number of successful shops which will raise funds to make a real difference to older people living in the borough."

"We now need donated stock for the shop and volunteers to join our small shop team to help run the shop."

"We will gratefully receive any unwanted clothing, hand bags, shoes, books and bric-a-brac at the shop."

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact René Evans on (01384) 356150 or email volunteer@ageukdudley.org.uk

# Ex-Merry Hill security guard pens another crime thriller

**AN author, whose debut crime novel was a bestseller, is hoping for another success story with her second book.**

Angela Marsons penned thriller Silent Scream about the gruesome murder of a Black Country headmistress that puts her police detective Kim Stone on the trail of a serial killer.

It shot to the top of the bestseller chart on Amazon and stayed there for a month. It was also top a five hit in the USA, Canada and Australia, and

has gone on to sell more than 370,000 copies worldwide.

Now the former Merry Hill security guard is hoping to repeat its success with her second book Evil Games. It follows Detective Inspector Stone as she investigates the brutal stabbing of a rapist and, as further disturbing events come to light, discovers there is someone even more sinister at work.

Miss Marsons, who lives in Brierley Hill, said: "I've done a lot of research on psychopaths and I was interested in how they operate without any empathy or connection to other people. The book took me about six months to research and write."

The 47-year-old, now a full-time writer, has a contract to pen eight books in the DI Stone series.

Following the success, Miss Marsons is keen to track down her former English teacher to thank her for the support she gave her at Heathfield High School in Cradley Heath.

Miss Othen taught her at the school, now called Ormiston Forge Academy, in the late 1970s and early 80s.

"I would love to be able to find her and say thank you," said Miss Marsons, who can be contacted via her publisher Bookouture.

Evil Games is available via Amazon in paperback and as an e-book.



Crime writer Angela Marsons

## Afternoon tea to help hospice

A CHARITY champion is preparing to host a tea party to help a Stourbridge hospice this afternoon (Thursday) after the success of a recent event.

Sue Williams is hosting a tea party in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice, after she has already helped raise £2,700 after organising an evening with Edwina Currie, the former Conservative politician.

Today's tea party will be held at the Park Hall estate, off the A456 Birmingham Road, in Blakedown. The event runs from 2pm to 5pm and costs £12 per person which includes tea, coffee, cake, sandwiches and entertainment.

Sue said: "Mary Stevens is very close to my heart particularly since losing two very close friends who spent their last days there."

Call Sue Williams on 01562 883834 or 07536 111637 for details.

## Beer day celebrates the Black Country



Camra's Steve Thompson and Tony Hitchmough

DRINKERS will be able to raise a glass to the Black Country during a special pub and brewery tour.

A celebration of Black Country beers is being brewed up as part of this summer's Black Country Festival.

The event, which will involve a trip around Dudley borough by bus, and will take in famous Black Country pubs associated with local breweries.

The Black Country Beer Day will be led by the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale on Saturday, July 11. It is part of a series of events taking place throughout July in Dudley to celebrate Black Country Day on July 14.

The trip will start at 11am at the new Sadler's Brewhouse and Bar adjacent to Lye Railway Station and go via Craddock's brewery at the Duke William in Stourbridge and the Bathams' Bull and Bladder in Brierley Hill before heading to the Olde Swan Brewery at Ma Pardoes in Netherton. Visit [www.blackcountryfestival.co.uk](http://www.blackcountryfestival.co.uk) for further details.

## Motorcyclist survives crash due to helmet

A MOTORCYCLIST had his helmet to thank for when he escaped with minor injuries in a crash with a van, say paramedics.

The rider, who was in his 40s was taken to hospital with a shoulder injury but medics say his injuries could have been a lot worse had he not been wearing a helmet. His helmet had a two to three inch dent.

The smash happened at about 2.30pm on June 23 on the A458 Stourbridge to Bridgnorth road near Enville.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "The motorcycle had suffered significant damage. The motorcyclist's helmet had a two to three inch dent in it but he'd managed to get it off himself. He was immobilised using a neck collar and spinal board and underwent a full trauma assessment. He was given pain relief before being taken to Russells Hall Hospital. The man driving the van was unhurt."

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## MP visits homes to thank staff

AN MP has presented care home staff with awards and joined in residents' keep fit classes.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, visited three care homes as part of National Care Home Open Day.

He presented long service awards to staff at Trinity House, Cradley Heath, and joined residents for their fitness class at Halas Homes.

Thousands of care homes across the UK took part last week, welcoming the public and arranging events and activities that help to create lasting links between care home residents and their local communities.

Conservative MP Mr Morris said: "All three homes I visited demonstrated a community spirit and showed how they set a high standard."

## A first for firefighters

OFFICERS from Old Hill and Cradley Heath Neighbourhood policing team joined specialist fire crews to rescue a dog that fell 15 feet down a drain in Rowley Regis.

The three-year-old terrier became an internet hit after emergency crews streamed the rescue live on the internet – a first for the service. Crews were called around 7.30pm on Sunday and it took over two hours to rescue the animal from the drain in Powke Lane.

## FOCUS ON CRADLEY AND CRADLEY HEATH

# Bid to mark chainmakers' festival with bostin' picnic

A bostin' picnic will be offering visitors to this year's Women Chainmakers' Festival plenty to 'ate'.

Cradley Heath Creative is calling for people to bring along a favourite dish to share with others as part of the community event on Sunday, July 12.

The group will be in their newly purchased Oss Box, a 70's horse trailer that they are transforming into a mobile arts venue. This year's Women Chainmakers' Festival is the Oss Box's first outing and it will be used for creative activities.

Vicki Smith of Cradley Heath Creative said: "Our idea is that people share food that is memorable or means a lot to them. I'll be bringing tinned peaches and evaporated milk, a real strong memory of family Sunday afternoons."

### Moved

"Although this is a festival celebrating women's work, there are plenty of men who get into the kitchen nowadays, and there's lots of international food that people love. There'll be cutlery and plates available, just dish up your dishes."

She added: "It's really good to be part of the Women Chainmakers' Festival again, especially now it's moved to Cradley Heath High Street this year."

"On the day there is music, theatre, comedy,

headlined by Black Country comedy group, The Fizzogs, and plenty of family fun."

The event used to be held at the Black Country Living Museum.

The night before the picnic, there will be a performance as part of the festival at the Hollybush Ale House on New Town Lane.

It will be the second time that Cradley Heath Creative, which works to bring arts to the area, has taken part in the Women Chainmakers' Festival.

The event marks the 1910 strike when the women chainmakers of Cradley Heath, led by trade unionist Mary MacArthur, held out for ten weeks to secure better wages for women. Their struggle paved the way for the minimum wage.

The event is from 11am until 6pm, involving music, street theatre and speeches.

by Heather Large



Vicki Smith, left, with Tim Tolkien and Fran Wilde, ready for the Women Chainmakers' Festival at Cradley Heath

## Library bid to boost shop parade

CRADLEY Library could move to a revamped shopping parade under plans which include a supermarket, new shops and flats.

Campaigners are looking at ideas to have rundown shops in Colley Gate transformed, after claiming that boarded-up shops are blighting the area.

Councillors say that relocating the town's library, currently around the corner in Colley Lane, forms part of the proposals. They claim Cradley Library is one of the least used in the borough and a move could boost numbers using it.

Developers Hortons' Estates and Antringham showcased their ideas to around 100 people who attended the Cradley Action Group meeting last month.

Dudley Council own two of the properties and the developers are entering talks with landlords over the four remaining stores.

## Paths project perks up park

IMPROVEMENTS have been made to a Cradley park where a £70,000 project to create new footpaths has been completed.

The work has been carried out at Homer Hill Park to improve access for visitors. The five paths have been made in and around the perimeter of the park and now join up with the existing network of walks. Some cash for the project came from the sale of the crematorium lodge in Lower Gornal.

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## Bowie's Black Country Rock revival

**Tony Visconti & Woody Woodmansey's Holy Holy, 02 Academy, Birmingham**

TONY Visconti produced some of David Bowie's best known albums, and as one of the Spiders from Mars, Woody Woodmansey drummed on them. Though the main man remains in semi-retirement in New York, they have earned the right to perform these songs.

The Man Who Sold The World is an

odd choice to perform in full, as one of the Thin White Duke's lesser known albums. Its title song was covered so superbly by Nirvana that many think it's a Kurt Cobain original.

Given the hard rock treatment by a seasoned band and with Heaven 17's capable Glenn Gregory providing the lion's share of the vocals, it was interesting to hear Bowie's prog rock opus from 1970. There were storming versions of All the Madmen, Black Country

Rock and After All, the latter with suitably theatrical vocals from guest Marc Almond. Visconti played bass and Yorkshire rocker Woodmansey remains a formidable drummer.

Things took off in the second half with favourites from Hunkey Dory, Ziggy Stardust and Aladdin Sane, Gregory excelling with Life On Mars and duetting with Almond for All The Young Dudes and Oh You Pretty Things.

Leon Burakowski

## Mousetrap has secret of success

**The Mousetrap, Wolverhampton Grand**

FOR more than six decades now, Agatha Christie's play The Mousetrap has been at fixture in London's West End, while this national tour delights audiences further afield.

The longevity of The Mousetrap may fool first timers into thinking that it is her best work; in fact, it is not. That said, it is a light-hearted, quirky piece of theatre with an essentially English vibe, an easy-to-follow storyline and likeable characters. The perfect recipe for an entertaining evening.

The plot centres around a group of unusual characters who are brought together in a small country guest house. Then, exactly as you would expect, when a murder happens everyone begins to suspect everyone else.

The twists and turns in Act Two ensure that the reveal is completely unpredictable. All that is left to say is please don't spoil it. Half the fun of seeing The Mousetrap is keeping the secret. It runs until Saturday.

Alison Norton

## REVIEWS



Stafford Festival Shakespeare performing Much Ado About Nothing at Stafford Castle

## Much Ado is worthy of Stafford Festival's 25 year anniversary

**Much Ado About Nothing, Stafford Castle**

IN some corner of a Stafford field, that is forever England, in the shadow of the castle, we were treated to a sparkling performance of Much Ado About Nothing.

Set just after the end of the First World War, the cast, admirably led by Philip Harris - who would later be tickling our ribs as the incompetent policeman Dogberry - got the audience into the mood with a sing-along. It certainly set the tone for what would be a very musical production with excellent voices and instrumentation throughout, to intersperse the comedic and highly dramatic moments of Much Ado.

Union Flag bunting surrounds the stage, the facade of a town square of the period is the backdrop, as our brave boys are welcomed home from the trenches. Quickly their thoughts turn from war to the pursuit of the fairer sex as Benedick and Beatrice engage in their own war of wits. The leads, a couple of 25 years themselves, Philip Bretherton as Benedick and Sherry Baines as Beatrice, acquitted themselves well as the sparring partners who come to realise they have feelings for one another.

The Stafford Festival Shakespeare production continues until July 11.

Graeme Andrew

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# £3m Portal canal centre being built

WORK has begun on a £3 million education centre at Dudley Canal Tunnel – the latest stage of a multi-million pound tourism project transforming the town.

Builders have moved in to create the attraction – to be known as The Portal – which it is hoped will draw tourists from across the country.

It coincides with the £10m revamp of Castle Hill helping to link the tunnels, Dudley Zoo and Castle and the Black Country Living Museum.

Officials from Dudley Canal Trust, which manage the historic tunnel and limestone mines, are delighted that the works are under way to bring their vision to reality.

Visitors will be able to get a glimpse of the future of the Todd's End site, off Birmingham New Road, as the building work progresses.

The Portal, at Todd's End, off the Birmingham New Road, will outline the Black Country's industrial past with exhibits inside a two-storey building. The top floor will provide direct access from the boat trips car park.

Dudley Canal Trust Trips Chief Executive, Nick Morris, said: "We are delighted to see such progress on our new facility. Our underground experience is a unique attraction,

and we are looking forward to having a building that does it justice."

The building is due to open in the autumn. There will be an interactive exhibition in the Biffa Award gallery, and a new restaurant is planned. People will be able to have a drink on the balcony overlooking the canal, take part in workshops in the learning space or hold functions at the centre.

Mr Morris added: "The new building will be a huge step forward for us in terms of what we can offer visitors. Whether you're booking a wedding reception with us or bringing the family for a day out, we can't wait to show you everything we have planned."

Plans for The Portal were first announced by Dudley Canal Trust around three years ago. It has been supported by grants from organisations including Heritage Lottery Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Black Country Local Area Partnership and a Biffa Award.

Building work continues throughout the summer, and boat trips into the limestone mines continue as normal whilst the work is going on.

Visitors are encouraged to view the work from a viewing platform at car park level and the canal side.



The frame is up and building work progresses at The Portal education centre beside the canal in Dudley

## Sports sessions for youngsters during summer holidays

A 'SUMMER activezone' kicks off in Dudley next month giving children six weeks of sporting holiday fun.

Activities will run from July 20 until August 29 and are a mixture of free and paid-for sessions for children aged five to 18. Coaching for sports including basketball, cricket, football, golf, gymnastics, multi-sports and tennis is available throughout the holidays in the borough.

Summer activities include gymnastics, multi-skills, junior intensive swim lessons, arts and crafts, soft play which are all taking place at Crystal, Dudley and Halesowen leisure centres. There are free group activities including games, fencing, sports and fitness activities and adapted games such as kwik cricket at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge; Huntingtree Park, Halesowen; Silver Jubilee Park, Cosley; and Netherton Park.

### Parachute

Free activities including fencing, parachute games, tag games, relays, Frisbee, rounder's, orienteering, fitness activities and adapted games are also on offer as part of the activezone summer.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for health, said: "Summer activezone is a fantastic guide to activities, coaching and sports across the borough throughout the summer holidays."

Coaching and leisure centre activity prices vary and are subject to availability. For more information visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/sport](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/sport) call (01384) 815594 or email [activezone@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:activezone@dudley.gov.uk)

# College's principal speaks out over cuts

PRINCIPAL Lowell Williams has spoken of his 'desperate disappointment' that more jobs are set to go at Dudley College.

A dozen full-time posts are at risk with more redundancies expected to follow in the wake of £1.4m Government cuts to the college's adult learning budget.

Twelve roles in management, teaching and support will go, while 39 posts will be reduced from full-time to term-time only.

The cuts mean around 1,000 fewer places available for adult learners from September.

A total of 22 posts have already gone since the college launched its targeted redundancy programme in April.

It followed the removal of funding from the Government's Skills Funding Agency.

Health and social care courses as well as early years training in nurseries and care homes are among the courses hit by the move.

Seven workers originally marked for redundancy have been found alternative positions in the college.

### Wages

The reduction in posts from full-time to term-time is expected to hit hard with those staff possibly losing up to 30 per cent of their wages.

Principal Lowell Williams, said: "We are desperately disappointed to be forced into this position. The college is a high-performing, extremely efficient organisation but we

By Peter Madeley

cannot sustain the current workforce in this climate of austerity, where wave after wave of budget reductions are being imposed on adult learning provision."

Despite cuts, the college's financial health remains 'strong' following the multi-million pound investment in Dudley's Learning Quarter.

Meanwhile, a Government minister has promised to meet with bosses at Dudley College to discuss concerns over the cuts in funding.

Business, Innovation and Skills minister Nick Boles said he would hold talks with college representatives after they revealed that jobs and courses are under threat.

The pledge came after Dudley North MP Ian Austin requested that ministers address proposed cuts putting jobs and student places under threat.

Among the training places facing the axe are health and social care courses, as well as early years training in the workplace.

## Flowers for Floozie

BIRMINGHAM'S landmark Floozie in the Jacuzzi is to be filled with flowers and plants this summer.

The famous fountain in Victoria Square, which has not been fully operational since 2013, will be filled with blooms from mid-July. The city council is looking to fully repair the fountain next year after initial work failed to fix a leak. Until then, the landmark will be filled with flowers.

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Children at a Sunday School anniversary at the Wesley Bible Institute during the 1940s



Always independent – the Wesley Bible Institute in Darby End



Wesley Bible Institute Church Juniors FC, Handsworth division IV champions 1918-19

# The Wesley 'Stute goes on despite changing times over its 100 years

THE changing face of the 20th century is recorded in this small chapel near Dudley.

Once people were filing in for one of five services held on Sundays at the busy chapel packed to the rafters. But now declining numbers reflect the hastening pace of life.

Wesley Bible Institute Church, in Darby End, Netherton, is celebrated its centenary with an open day and service recently.

Around 30 people still regularly attend the church, in Cole Street, each week.

Organisers say people would be travelling from as far afield as Essex and Yorkshire to mark the milestone.

Church member Dave Walker, aged 72, was first taken to the church by his mother Nellie, who was a Sunday school superintendent.

"It will be nice to see everyone down there," said Mr Walker, a retired newspaper sub editor who has two children and four grandchildren.

## MEMORY LANE

by Andrew Turton

Also involved are lay preacher Norman Jeavons, church elders John Nash and Geoff Harris, church members Carol Priest, and Paul and Kim Hill, who were married at the Wesley Bible Institute Church, and church council chairman Brian Adams.

"It is a humble church and it has a good atmosphere with a good heart," said Mr Hill, a father-of-three, from Dudley Wood.

The Stute, as it is known locally, evolved from the Darby End Institute Youth Club which used to meet in a wooden hut where the present church stands today.

The chapel was built in 1915.

Founder members Daniel Morby, choir-master John Wycherley and David Downer were the driving force in forming the church. They were joined by organist Billy Smart, Irene Smart who was the Sunday School pianist and the Sunday School superintendent Fred Shaw.

At one time, there were five Sunday meetings – three for adults and two for Sunday School children – together with mid-week activities.

One of the church's sporting highlights was winning the old Dudley Guest Hospital cup, beating Cradley Heath St Luke's, in the early 1930s on a pitch in the Dudley Wood stadium, home to Cradley Heathens speedway team.

There was some controversy in 1932 when some elders and members left to join Cole Street Methodist Church following the chapel's decision not to join the local Methodist circuit.

The end of the Second World War marked a cause for celebration as church members who had been serving in the forces were welcomed home, including Japanese prisoner of war Harold Smith. Charitable causes were central to life at the chapel which was an active member of Netherton Free Church Federal Council and Sunday School Union. They raised money for orphaned children.

There were choir trips to the seaside every Whit Monday, annual Sunday School outings and Bonfire Night events. After the demise of the chapels' football and cricket teams following the war the youth club formed a table tennis team which played in the old Dudley Temperance League.

With the Sunday School's ongoing popularity, a £2,800 school room was opened on March 2, 1963, by Mr Walker's mother Nellie and church council chairman Sid Foley. Nellie passed away in 1968 aged 65.

Around this time youth members held a protest about rules imposed by church officials saying there should not be any smoking or playing of pop music on the premises.

In the 1970s there was another vote on joining the local Methodist circuit and again the motion was defeated and the chapel stayed independent.

Now the chapel has just one service each week with no midweek meetings.

Mr Walker said: "There is a good spirit among members and they intend to keep going for quite a while yet."



Nellie Walker opens the Sunday School watched by Sid Foley

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## Camper Jam



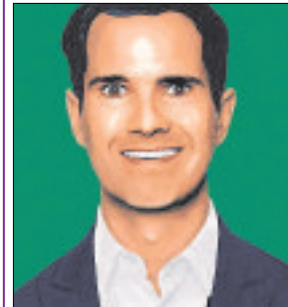
**Fri - Sun**  
**Weston Park, Shifnal**  
 Camper Jam is a family friendly, fun filled show with a chilled out, take it easy vibe. Highlights include live bands, children's activities and the "cooking in a camper" competition. Visit [www.camperjam.com](http://www.camperjam.com)

## Moscow State Circus



**Wed - July 12**  
**Merry Hill Centre, Dudley**  
 The Moscow State Circus returns to the UK with its latest and greatest production to date. Zhelaniy is based on the Russian folklore story of the flower with seven colours. Visit [www.moscowstatecircus.com](http://www.moscowstatecircus.com)

## Jimmy Carr



**Saturday, 8pm**  
**Symphony Hall, B'ham**  
 By popular demand Carr has added this extra date to his current tour, Funny Business. Come for the witty and incisive musings on the human condition; stay for the cheap gags. Visit [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

## Mary J Blige



**Friday, 7.30pm**  
**Barclaycard Arena, B'ham**  
 Global superstar and undisputed queen of contemporary soul Mary J Blige follows her show-stealing performance alongside Sam Smith at the 2015 Grammy Awards with a new tour. Visit [www.barclaycardarena.co.uk](http://www.barclaycardarena.co.uk)

## ROCK & POP

**Mary J. Blige**  
 Fri at 7.30pm,  
 £40.08 - £56.95  
 Barclaycard Arena,  
 Birmingham, B1 2AA.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

**Fleetwood Mac**  
 Sat at 8pm, £56.70 - £135.70  
 Genting Arena, Birmingham,  
 B40 1NT.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

**The Wall Of Floyd**  
 Fri at 7.30pm,  
 £16.75 - £18.75  
 Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,  
 Redditch, B98 8AE.  
 Call 01527 65203

**The Billy Fury Years**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £18  
 Prince Of Wales Centre,  
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.  
 Call 01543 578762

**Paul Carrack - Rain or Shine**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £25 - £27.50  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Respublica**  
 Sat at 7pm,  
 O2 Academy Birmingham,  
 B1 1DB.  
 Call 0121 622 8250

**Biohazard**  
 Wed at 7pm, £16.50  
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,  
 WV1 1HP.  
 Call 01902 552106

## COUNTRY & FOLK

**Nothing to Prove**  
 Fri at 8.30pm, £4 - £5  
 Ashwood Marina Ltd,  
 Kingswinford, DY6 0AQ.  
 Call 01384 27996

**Andrew & Lynn**  
 Fri at 8.30pm, £6  
 The Five Ways Inn,  
 Cannock, WS12 3HU.  
 Call 01543 279022

**Common Folk Double Bill**  
 Thu at 8.30pm,  
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,  
 Walsall Road, Walsall, WS3 4BP.  
 Call 01922 62018

**Country Music Nights**  
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2  
 Swan With Two Necks,  
 London, WS15 4PN.  
 Call 01543 491570

**Simon & Garfunkel**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £1 - £12.50  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Irish Session**  
 Wed at 8pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,  
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Sandpiper Folk Club Night**  
 Wed at 7.45pm,  
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street,  
 Pattingham,  
 Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.  
 Call 01902 700207

**Brewod Acoustic Club**  
 Thu at 8pm,  
 Brewod Cricket Club, Four  
 Ashes Road, Brewod,  
 ST19 9HX.  
 Call 01902 850422

## CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

**Bette Midler**  
 Thu at 8pm, £56.95 - £110.70  
 Barclaycard Arena,  
 Birmingham, B1 2AA.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

**Graduates Summer Concert**  
 Sun at 4pm - 5pm,  
 Selly Manor Museum,  
 Bournville, Birmingham,  
 B30 1UB.  
 Call 0121 472 0199

**Royal Opera: Guillaume Tell**  
 Sun at 2.45pm, £10 - £18  
 Light House, Wolverhampton,  
 WV1 1HT.  
 Call 01902 716055

**Redditch Orchestra**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
 Artix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**Harp & A Monkey - The Great War: New Songs and Stories**  
 Mon at 8pm  
 Stafford Gatehouse,  
 ST16 2LT  
 Call 01785 619080

**Carducci Quartet**  
 Sat at 10.30am  
 Symphony Hall,  
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 345 0600

**2015 Brant International Piano Competition, Birmingham: The Final**  
 Sat at 3pm  
 Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 345 0600

**Wagner's The Flying Dutchman**  
 Sun at 4pm  
 £9.50 - £50  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 345 0600

## JAZZ & BLUES

**The Beat Brothers**  
 Sat, 7/30pm  
 The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls  
 Square, Birmingham, B31QU.  
 Call 0121 200 3030

**Karyn White**  
 Tue, 7.30pm  
 The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls  
 Square, Birmingham, B31QU.  
 Call 0121 200 3030

**King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys**  
 Thu, 7.30pm  
 The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls  
 Square, Birmingham, B31QU.  
 Call 0121 200 3030

**The Pasadena Roof Orchestra**  
 Wed at 7.30pm,  
 £18.25 - £19.75  
 Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,  
 Redditch, B98 8AE.  
 Call 01527 65203

**Lee Jones Quintet**  
 Fri at 5pm, Free  
 Symphony Hall Cafe Bar  
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 345 0600

**Ella Fitzgerald Songbook**  
 Fri, 7.30pm  
 £12.50 - £44  
 Symphony Hall,  
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 345 0600

**MFY National Festival**  
 Tue - July 10  
 Venues and times vary  
 Symphony Hall,  
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 345 0600

## THEATRE

**Barnum**  
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at  
 2pm, £19.50 - £48.50  
 Birmingham Hippodrome,  
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Meet the Gruffalo!**  
 Sat at 10.30am, £3  
 Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,  
 Redditch, B98 8AE.  
 Call 01527 65203

**Oklahoma!**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,  
 £18 - £40  
 Birmingham Hippodrome,  
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Dead Simple**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,  
 £11.25 - £38.90  
 New Alexandra Theatre,  
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
 Call 0844 871 3011

**Cyrano de Bergerac**  
 Sat at 7.45pm, Sun at 2.45pm,  
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.45pm,  
 £6 - £12.50  
 The Crescent Theatre,  
 Sheepcote Street, Birmingham,  
 B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

**The Mousetrap**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,  
 £11.50 - £29.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
 WV1 1DE.  
 Call 01902 573320

**Vocalize Variety Show**  
 Sat at 2pm, 7pm,  
 £10.75 - £12.75  
 Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,  
 Redditch, B98 8AE.  
 Call 01527 65203

**Honk! The Musical**  
 Wed, Thu at 2.30pm/7.30pm  
 Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT  
 Call 01785 619080

**NT Live: Man & Superman**  
 Sun at 2pm, £11 - £19.50  
 mac, Cannon Hill Park,  
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**NT Live: Man & Superman**  
 Fri at 7pm  
 Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT  
 Call 01785 619080

## DANCE

**Worcestershire Schools' Dance**  
 Tue at 4pm, £5.75 - £10.75  
 Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,  
 Redditch, B98 8AE.  
 Call 01527 65203

## COMEDY

**Jimmy Carr**  
 Sat at 8pm, £25  
 Symphony Hall,  
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 345 0600

**The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy**  
 Fri, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.50  
 The Glee Club, 70 Hurst Street,  
 Birmingham,  
 B5 4TD.  
 Call 0871 472 0400

## CRAFT & WORKSHOPS

**Children's Weekend Activities**  
 Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm,  
 £2 - £4.50  
 The Museum Of Carpet,  
 Kidderminster, DY10 1AZ.  
 Call 01562 69028

**You Crafty Thing!**  
 Thu at 10.30am - 12.30pm,  
 £3  
 The Museum Of Cannock Chase,  
 Hednesford,  
 Cannock, WS12 1TD.  
 Call 01543 877666

**Nifty Knitters**  
 Fri at 11am - 1pm, £1  
 The Oak House Museum, Oak  
 Road, West Bromwich,  
 B70 8JU  
 Call 0121 553 0759

## OPEN MICS & OTHER EVENTS

**Open Mic Night**  
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,  
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**The Quiz**  
 Tue at 7.30pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,  
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Irish Session**  
 Wed at 8pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,  
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Rebel Rebel Weekends**  
 Fri, Sat at 8pm, Free  
 The Flapper, Kingston Row,  
 Birmingham, B1 2NU.  
 Call 0121 236 2421

**Sunday Shenanigans - Open Mic night**  
 Sun at 8pm - 12pm, Free  
 Moochers, Stourbridge,  
 DY8 1PH.  
 Call 01384 671141

## TALKS & LECTURES

**An Introduction to Beekeeping**  
 Sat at 12pm - 2pm, £15  
 Selly Manor Museum,  
 Bournville, Birmingham,  
 B30 1UB.  
 Call 0121 472 0199

## FAMILY/DAYS OUT

**Camper Jam**  
 Fri, Sat, Sun, £15 on the gate  
 Weston Park, nr Shifnal,  
 TF11 8LE.  
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**Cadbury World Summer Fun**  
 Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am  
 - 3pm, Sat, Sun at 9.30am - 4pm,  
 £11.95 - £15.95  
 Cadbury World, Linden Road,  
 Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU.  
 Call 0844 880 7667

**Contemporary Craft Markets**  
 Sun at 11am - 5pm, Free  
 mac, Cannon Hill Park,  
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Power Loom Demonstration**  
 Sat, Tue at 12pm - 1pm, £2 -  
 £4.50  
 The Museum Of Carpet,  
 Kidderminster, DY10 1AZ.  
 Call 01562 69028

**Master Gilder at Work**  
 Fri, Tue at 10am - 3pm,  
 £5 - £6  
 Museum Of Royal Worcester,  
 WR1 2ND.  
 Call 01905 21247

**Family History Buddy**  
 Wed at 9.30am - 1pm, 1.45pm -  
 5pm, Free  
 Walsall Local History Centre,  
 WS2 7AS. Call 01922 721305

**1600s Gardening Group**  
 Tue at 10am - 1pm, Free  
 The Oak House Museum, West  
 Bromwich, B70 8JU.  
 Call 0121 553 0759

**Coffee Mornings**  
 Fri, Sat, Thu at 2pm - 5pm,  
 £2  
 Wednesbury Museum & Art  
 Gallery, WS10 7DF.  
 Call 0121 556 0683

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Swing into action with world of jazz



Florence Joelle, seen performing at Brindleyplace, is singing at this year's jazz festival. Picture by Merlin Daleman

THE 31st annual Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival swings into action tomorrow (Friday) for ten days of world-class music with 177 live performances in 78 venues across the city — most of them free admission.

Musicians from the UK and France, Luxembourg, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Australia and the USA will be descending on Brum with events also taking place in Sandwell, Sutton Coldfield and Solihull.

Festival director Jim Simpson said: "This year promises to be one of our most exciting festivals to date with a daily average of 36 hours of free jazz and blues."

The international acts include France's Florence Joelle (pictured above) and Les Zauto Stompers de Paris (pictured front), Italy's Pepper & The Jellies, the Stockholm Stompers, UK regulars like Digby Fairweather and Val Wiseman plus

domestic newcomers Harpers Ferry, Blues Engine and Ella Squirrel.

There will also be talks, a movie season including the first Midlands screening for Amy Winehouse documentary Amy, and a pop-up dance hall at Regency Wharf, plus a drum masterclass with Peter York from the Spencer Davis Group and performances by the Chinese Jitterbug Squad. For programme details see [www.birminghamjazzfestival.com](http://www.birminghamjazzfestival.com)



## The ultimate entertainer

WHEN you think of natural entertainers, Brian Conley quickly springs to mind. The star is currently in his element playing the role of America's greatest showman Phineas T Barnum in the exhilarating musical, Barnum, which opens at Birmingham Hippodrome on Tuesday for a month-long run.

The musical follows the dreams of Barnum and his marriage to Chairy, the woman who made his wishes come true. "Everything about Barnum is wonderful and I'm honoured to be a part of it with such a great cast," said Conley.

The production even calls upon Conley to use his magic skills and walk a tightrope and the entertainer is full of praise for the original showman.

"He was a wonderful showman, it was his idea to have the three ring circus; he went into politics; he had an affair; lost millions; got millions. It's a fantastic story with a circus background, lots of colour, lots of high comedy, and some of the best songs, I think, in musical theatre."

Barnum's wife on stage is Linzi Hateley who was in the revivals of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Oliver and Les Miserables. Linzi said: "I'm originally from Tamworth, so it's very nice to hear accents that are recognisable."

Cy Coleman's exuberant score includes the songs Come Follow The Band, The Colours Of My Life and There Is A Sucker Born Ev'ry Minute.

For tickets see [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com) or call 0844 338 5000.

### Young Rep premiere social media satire

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre's youth theatre, The Young Rep, is to stage the premiere of the debut play by Bournville's Grace Barrington, a former member of Young Rep.

Innovative comedy Me At The Zoo is a timely look at how some people project themselves via social media. The former Kings Norton Girls' School student says: "I hope that Me At The Zoo highlights a lot of problems that are manifesting within the Internet."

Meet At The Zoo, directed by Tom Mansfield, is at The Door venue on Tuesday and Wednesday. Tickets are £6, concessions available, see [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk) or call 0121 236 4455.

### Wonder Stuff and Twang join forces

TWO of the West Midlands' top indie rock bands are joining forces for a double headline gig at the Wulfrun Hall on Sunday.

The Wonder Stuff and The Twang will appear at the Wolverhampton venue after they were originally due to feature at a proposed weekend rock festival at Dudley Castle which didn't reach fruition.

Promoted by popular indie club night Blast Off, tickets are £25 plus booking free. The Wonder Stuff had hits with Size Of A Cow and Caught in My Shadow in 1991 and The Twang went top ten with Either Way in 2007. See [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk) or call 0870 320 7000.

### Swim Deep dive in to the summer

BIRMINGHAM rising stars Swim Deep nod to 'Madchester' and psychedelic pop with their summer single One Great Song And I Could Change The World.

Released through Chess Club/RCA, the new track further reveals the band's fresh sound for forthcoming second album, Mothers, being released on September 19. That will be the follow up to 2013's debut Where The Heaven Are We.

Including last single To My Brother, the new album is the first as a five-piece after James Balmont joined. Singer Austin Williams said: "We've called it 'Mothers' as a nod to the true creators of the universe."

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# Quality with lot of choice

After opening earlier this year, Giorgios restaurant in Bridg-town, Cannock, is filling a gap – in more ways than one

**I'm on a seafood diet – I see food and I eat it. Or so the saying goes.**

That could be no more evident than during my recent visit to Giorgios's Greek and Mediterranean restaurant in Cannock.

And, while the economy in Greece may not be in the best of shape, the same could not be said for Giorgios's, the likes of which Cannock has been crying out for for a number of years.

Situated in Bridge Street, Bridg-town, it is ideally placed, right next door to the landmark Ramada Hotel. Staff say hotel guests are regular customers, while passing trade comes from motorists driving along the A5, and work parties from other nearby business estates are often seen on nights out there, as on our visit.

But on particular busy nights, when diners may have to wait for a seat, there's a twist – there's a bar next door which also allows for private functions.

## Plentiful

Catering for more than 120 diners, Giorgios's has an open-plan kitchen, while the walls are tastefully decorated with a scene from a Greek island that could make one think they were actually there. There's no smashing plates at the end, though.

Yet the restaurant is still in its infancy, having only opened in the new year.

Vinny Singh, a partner in the business, says patience is needed when trying to get a business off the ground, attracting the right clientele and finding the right ingredients.

Patience was certainly needed when my partner and I dropped in. The helpings were so plentiful that a lot of time was required to finish them off. And even when it proved too



A taste of the Mediterranean – Giorgios's can cater for more than 120 diners and is tastefully decorated



The restaurant is ideally placed next to the landmark Ramada Hotel

much, six extra people can vouch for its excellence, having been treated to a mini-feast at the office the next day.

In manager Dimitri Constaninedes, customers could not wish for a more genial host.

He is readily on hand to explain what is offered on the menu and what the dishes contain, although the menu itself does describe the fare, and vegetarian dishes are clearly marked.

Sadly, there was no humus or taramasalata

because of a 'double dip' recession. I joke, of course – there was tzatziki, too, served among our starters, which included many things I couldn't even spell, never mind pronounce. After all, it's all Greek to me.

Prices start at £3.50 for the appetisers, which all come with pitta bread and olives. A bargain deal is the Greek/Cypriot special, a meze, which comprises a mix of starters and main for £16.95 for a minimum of two people.

And, it's fair to say, we tried our hand at

most of what was on offer. Mains, including the traditional moussaka, are served with savoury potatoes, savoury rice and salad.

The pick for me was the souviaka, the tender beef stifado the kleftiko – described as the restaurant's signature dish – and the grilled halloumi cheese. Just the smell has the senses working overtime.

Helping these to go down was the Greek beer Mythos. After all, when in Rome . . . or Athens. Or in this case Bridg-town.

But that wasn't all. Puddings were delivered, and followed by the piece de resistance or whatever the Greek equivalent is – a glass of the fortified mavrodaphne wine, which simply hit the spot.

All in all, a smashing time was had by all – without any broken crockery.

Giorgios's is open seven days a week, from 6pm Monday to Saturday and 3pm on Sunday. To book, call 01543 573861.

Mark Shipp

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CHOICE



Amanda Henderson

**Casualty (BBC1, 8.50pm)**  
A mother on the run from the police sacrifices her life for her pregnant daughter, while Dylan learns the power of belief through a patient who has a holistic therapist, and decides that the number four is unlucky for him. Charlie's continuing battle with Louis takes a dramatic turn when he finds his son in a drug den, and his threat to inject himself with Zach, and Lily is on the hunt for a partner. Hospital drama, starring William Beck, Derek Thompson, Gregory Foreman, George Rainsford, Amanda Henderson, Aleksy Komorowski and Crystal Yu.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Wimbledon 2015. Sue Barker introduces the latest live coverage on the sixth day of the Grand Slam tournament at the All England Club, where the third-round singles matches continue. Coverage continues on BBC2. **6.40 BBC News.** **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Prized Apart.** The six remaining adventurers in Morocco are split into three teams of two and must build a boat from scratch and race across a huge reservoir in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. Only the winners are exempt from the survival challenge – an abseil down a 300-foot waterfall in a race against the clock. The lowest-ranked three contestants are then flown back to their studio partners in the UK, who have to answer quiz questions to make it through to the next round. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. **8.00** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.50** **Casualty.** A mother on the run from the police sacrifices her life for her pregnant daughter, and Charlie has a dramatic showdown with Louis after finding him in a drug den. **9.45** **The John Bishop Show.** The comedian introduces an evening of stand-up with Nina Conti, Glenn Wool, Nish Kumar and Myra Dubois, and music by Rita Ora and James Bay. **10.30** **BBC News;** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.50** **Not Going Out.** Daisy wins a place on Pointless and Lee convinces her of his intellectual prowess so she will have him as her partner. The only problem is, he is really just as stupid as her. (R) **11.20** **Room 101 – Extra Storage.** Frank Skinner invites Vernon Kay, Kelly Hopwood and Miles Jupp to discuss their pet hates, which include litter bins, toilet-roll covers and loud noises. (R) **12.00** **Film: The Hot Chick.** (2002) Body-swap comedy, starring Rob Schneider. **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.05** Animal Park. (R) **6.35** Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Practice One. **8.15** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.30** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **3.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.10** This Is Lionel Richie. (R) **5.15** Catchphrase. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** **ITV News;** Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a dog that steals a smartphone to film his own video, and trouble at church with the Language Barrier Bride. (R) **7.00** **Film: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.** (2009) The young wizard is given the task of uncovering the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past as the evil sorcerer's henchmen cause havoc in both the magical and Muggle worlds. With the help of headmaster Dumbledore, Harry ventures into the memories of those who knew the Dark Lord during his early years, hoping to gain an insight into the secret behind his apparent immortality. However, Voldemort's influence extends closer to home than expected, as Harry's rival Malfoy is chosen to carry out a sinister mission. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Michael Gambon, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Tom Felton and Alan Rickman. **10.00** **ITV News;** Weather. **10.15** **Black Work.** A suspect is taken into custody for Ryan's murder, but Jo remains unconvinced and continues investigating her husband's undercover work, leading to a disturbing revelation. (R) **11.15** **Film: Burn After Reading.** (2008) Two gym employees get hold of the manuscript for a CIA analyst's tell-all memoir and try to sell it to the Russians. The Coen brothers' comedy, with Brad Pitt and George Clooney. **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** Ejector Seat. (R) **3.45** **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.30** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **3.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.10** This Is Lionel Richie. (R) **5.15** Catchphrase. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** **ITV News;** Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a dog that steals a smartphone to film his own video, and trouble at church with the Language Barrier Bride. (R) **7.00** **Film: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.** (2009) The young wizard is given the task of uncovering the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past as the evil sorcerer's henchmen cause havoc in both the magical and Muggle worlds. With the help of headmaster Dumbledore, Harry ventures into the memories of those who knew the Dark Lord during his early years, hoping to gain an insight into the secret behind his apparent immortality. However, Voldemort's influence extends closer to home than expected, as Harry's rival Malfoy is chosen to carry out a sinister mission. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Michael Gambon, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Tom Felton and Alan Rickman. **10.00** **ITV News;** Weather. **10.15** **Black Work.** A suspect is taken into custody for Ryan's murder, but Jo remains unconvinced and continues investigating her husband's undercover work, leading to a disturbing revelation. (R) **11.15** **Film: Burn After Reading.** (2008) Two gym employees get hold of the manuscript for a CIA analyst's tell-all memoir and try to sell it to the Russians. The Coen brothers' comedy, with Brad Pitt and George Clooney. **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** Ejector Seat. (R) **3.45** **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** **Come Dine with Me.** It is the final day of the competition in Llanelli and teaching assistant Ainsley wants to educate her guests, while serving up an authentic Russian-themed dinner party. (R) **6.40** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Walking Through History.** Tony Robinson embarks on an expedition along Dorset's Jurassic coast to explore the county's hidden Second World War story. Starting behind the defences on Chesil Beach, he heads east to finish in Swanage and Studland Bay. On his five-day walk he encounters stunning scenery and uncovers wartime acts of ingenuity and bravery. (R) **8.00** **Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** Penelope concludes her trip with visits to Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, where she sees villages that have been used in film and TV. Last in the series. **9.00** **Film: GI Joe: Retaliation.** (2013) Premiere. An elite military team is nearly wiped out after a terrorist organisation replaces the US president with an imposter and has them declared enemies of the state. The handful of survivors seek the help of their original leader in avenging their fallen comrades. Action adventure sequel, starring Dwayne Johnson, Ray Park and Bruce Willis. **11.10** **Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day.** (1991) A cyborg is sent back in time to protect the future saviour of the human race from a shape-changing assassin. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton. **1.45** The Last Leg. (R) **2.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **5.40** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.35** **Film: Carry On Cabby.** (1963) Comedy, starring Sid James and Hattie Jacques. **3.25** **Film: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.** (1968) Children's musical adventure, starring Dick Van Dyke. **6.10** **5 News Weekend.** **6.15** **Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords.** More alarming tales from the buy-to-let system, including a woman's prolonged battle with her negligent landlord, and a landlord who was threatened by her rent-skipping tenant. (R) **7.10** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Mike Alonby and Terry Jones possess dubious 'cars' in Cheshire and Liverpool, while Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a couple with young children a few days before Christmas. (R) **8.05** **Benefits: 37 Years on the Dole.** The stories of three long-term unemployed people who among them have not worked in 37 years, including one who has sent more than 2,000 unsuccessful job applications in 12 years. (R) **9.00** **Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** The documentary examining the lives of individuals on the dole in the UK follows the stories of Roma people who moved to the UK and are now surviving on payments from the welfare state. Ion is from Romania and wants to make £40,000 from benefits to help him build a new house for his family back in his home village, while Katarina arrived from Slovakia seven years ago and has 11 children and 11 grandchildren living in and around an estate in Rotherham, South Yorkshire. (R) **10.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **11.00** **He Left Me for My Mother and Other Betrayals.** Stories of infidelity, with the first edition looking at the experiences of people betrayed by their partners and a family member, including Ryan Giggs' brother Rhodri. (R) **12.00** **Access.** **12.10** SuperCano. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** **Film:** Shanghai Noon (2000) **10.45** Russell Howard's Good News **11.15** Family Guy **1.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Partners **2.00** Uncle 3.30 Russell Howard's Good News **4.00** Close **BBC Four** **7.00** Fossil Wonders: Nature's Hidden Treasures **8.00** Natural World **9.00** Cordon **10.40** Arena: Any Winehouse – The Day She Came to Dingle **11.40** When Albums Ruled the World **1.10** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.40** Natural World **2.40** Fossil Wonders: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.40** Close **ITV2** **11.05** **Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **1.00** **Film:** Along Came Polly (2004) **2.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.05** **Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.00** **Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** **Film:** The Break-Up (2006) **12.15** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.45** Love Island **1.45** Crazy Beaches **2.35** Teleshopping **5.35** **ITV2** **Nightscreen** **ITV3** **2.40** A Touch of Frost **4.50** **Film:** Columbo: Swan Song (1974) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.30** Wycliffe **2.25** **ITV3** **Nightscreen** **2.30** **Teleshopping** **ITV4** **12.00** Storage Wars **1.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of the opening stage of this year's race. **5.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **6.30** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** **Film:** Diamonds Are Forever (1971) **10.30** **Film:** First Blood (1982) **12.25** The Cycle Show **1.25** Tour de France Highlights **2.15** Nitro Circus **2.35** Movies Now **2.45** **ITV4** **Nightscreen** **5.30** **Teleshopping** **E4** **12.00** Melissa & Joey **1.00** Baby Daddy **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** **Film:** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **5.50** Love(ish) Tube Shorts **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** **Film:** Attack the Block (2011) **10.45** Gogglebox **12.55** The IT Crowd **2.00** Virtually Famous **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** Rules of Engagement **4.20** Make it or Break It **Film4** **11.00** Night Passage (1957) **1.00** St. Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **3.05** The Princess Diaries (2001) **5.20** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **7.10** The Three Stooges (2012) **9.00** Patriot Games (1992) **11.15** Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (2010) **1.15** Inferno (1980) **3.30** Close

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## CHOICE



Emily Watson

**A Song for Jenny (BBC1, 9pm)**  
Drama, based on Julie Nicholson's book of the same name, which explores her response to her daughter's death at Edgware Road tube station in the July 7 bombings. The rollercoaster of emotions experienced by Julie and her family after the attack is explored; from hope, denial and acceptance, to grief and the desire to honour Jenny. The programme coincides with the forthcoming 10th anniversary of the 7/7 bombings in London and is a tribute to those who lost their lives in the attack. Emily Watson, Gwilym Lee, Steven Mackintosh, Nicola Wren, Martha Mackintosh, Laurence Belcher, Alan Rothwell, June Watson, Anne Stallybrass and John Woodvine star.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix. Suzi Perry presents coverage of the race at Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Prid Apart. (R) **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **8.00** Songs of Praise. Claire McCollum hears stories of faith in an episode marking the 10th anniversary of the July 7th London bombings, while Pam Rhodes meets Christians from Korea touring the UK. **5.35** Nature's Greatest Danes. Steve Backshall examines dances that are necessary for animals' survival, featuring footage of lemurs, shrews, toads and whales, with music including Oily Murs and the Bee Gees.

**6.35 BBC News.**

**6.50 Regional Programme.**

**7.00 Countryfile.** Matt Baker looks for basking sharks off the Cornish coast and scours the shoreline for shark egg cases. Ellie Harrison visits a project to map the entire UK coastline and learns about stinging nettles. John Caven reports on links between Cornish food producers and the Eden project. Tom Heap explores the county's underground resources, and Adam Henson meets some African agricultural experts visiting the UK. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00 Fake or Fortune?** New series. Fiona Bruce and art experts Philip Mould and Bendor Grosvenor come to the aid of a man who has inherited three paintings and needs to prove they are by LS Lowry.

**9.00 A Song for Jenny.** An exploration of Julie Nicholson's reaction to her daughter's death during the July 7 bombings in London. Adapted from Nicholson's book, and starring Emily Watson.

**10.20 BBC News.**

**10.40 Regional Programme.**

**10.50 Live at the Apollo.** Alan Carr hosts the stand-up show at London's Hammersmith Apollo, introducing routines by comedians Andi Osho and Patrick Kielty. (R)

**11.35 Don't Tell the Bride.** A hard-rocking groom-to-be plans a Guns N' Roses-themed wedding, unaware that his wife-to-be is not quite the metal-head he believes her to be. (R)

**12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.**  
**12.40** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.15** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15 F1 Rewind** – Great Britain: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.20** Athletics. **2.20** Live Athletics. The British Championships.

**6.00 Film: John Carter.** (2012) An American Civil War soldier is transported to an alien planet, which is also being torn apart by conflict. He intercedes in this struggle after rescuing a princess from captivity, and must win the trust of a fierce primitive tribe to save the world. Fantasy adventure based on Edgar Rice Burroughs' series of novels, starring Taylor Kitsch and Lynn Collins. Edited for daytime broadcast.

**8.00 Best of Top Gear.** Motoring magazine, featuring test drives of the latest models.

**9.00 Odyssey.** Now captive in Bamako, Odelle has to prove her value to an Ansar Dine interrogator, while Harrison turns to his father for help when he learns he has a connection to Colonel Glen.

**9.45 Family Guy.** New series. The Griffin family find themselves stuck in Springfield, home to The Simpsons, after fleeing Quahog when Peter faces a backlash over a misogynistic comic strip.

**10.25 Family Guy.** The residents of Quahog turn against one another as they become embroiled in a treasure hunt based on Peter's interpretation of a restaurant placemat.

**10.50 Family Guy.** Peter discovers that he has a vestigial twin growing out of his neck and names him Chip. However, he soon becomes jealous of the attention the new arrival is receiving.

**11.10 Family Guy.** Quagmire finally meets a woman with a sexual appetite as insatiable as his, but things take a turn for the worse when she makes him her sex slave.

**11.30 Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup.** The final (Kick-off 12.00am). Coverage of the match held at BC Place in Vancouver, Canada, as the teams battle it out for the title won by Japan in 2011.

**2.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R) **3.30** Holy City. (R) **4.30** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.40** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.40** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.40** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) Fantasy comedy, starring Emma Thompson. **4.45** Midsomer Murders. (R)

**6.45 Regional Programme: Weather.**

**6.55 ITV News: Weather.**

**7.15 Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

**8.00 Surprise Surprise.** Holly Willoughby makes dreams come true. Featuring a performance by Little Mix, two sisters meeting for the first time, and a detection dog with a surprise for an audience member.

**9.00 Black Work.** Jo is left reeling as the secrets she has uncovered prove devastating for her family. She decides to abandon her investigation into Ryan's death out of fear she is endangering her children. However, when another body is discovered, she realises that her husband's murderer is still at large, and it is up to her to see that he is brought to justice. But as she takes up the case again, she does not realise that the killer could be terrifyingly close to home. Conclusion of the three-part crime drama, starring Sheridan Smith. Last in the series.

**10.00 ITV News: Weather.**

**10.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survival.** Missions reach a new point as the celebrities face their toughest challenge yet, navigating down a powerful river, building shelters, catching food and enduring a tropical storm. (R)

**11.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Bruno Tonioli.** The flamboyant Strictly judge lifts the lid on his life and career as a dancer and choreographer. (R)

**12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.20** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Ginetta GT5 Challenge. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild.** Kevin heads toward the Arctic Circle to meet Richard and Claire Rees, an Welsh couple who have given up their jobs and former lives to reside in a basic wooden cabin in the snow-covered forests of northern Sweden. Living off-grid, with no electricity or running water, and facing temperatures that can go as low as minus 30C, simply surviving is a challenge. Kevin helps with the arduous daily tasks of chopping wood and collecting water from under the ice, learning that a cup of coffee can take an hour to make. Last in the series. (R)

**8.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015.** George Clarke introduces the nominees in the Pub Sheds category, including a pirate-themed structure, a gin distillery, a biker pub that once housed a helicopter and a nightclub with a collection of shrunken heads. He also looks at budget sheds, featuring a hillbilly hut on wheels, a garden pavilion made of firewood, a Nepalese mountain hut and a shed made from the ruins of beach huts.

**9.00 Humans.** Anita is taken for testing, which yields a surprising revelation. Pete's selfish behaviour drives Jill from the house. Hobb closes in on Niska, and Mattie gets in touch with Leo.

**10.00 Film: The Grey.** (2011) Eight stranded oil rig workers must make a gruelling journey across the Alaskan tundra, stalked by a pack of ferocious wolves. Adventure, starring Liam Neeson and Frank Grillo.

**12.15 Rude Tube.** (R) **1.10 Film: The Talented Mr Ripley.** (1999) **3.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** River Cottage Bites. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. **7.40** Mito Mito. (R) **7.45** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Only the Little White Van. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.55** Lazy Town. (R) **9.25** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40** Film: Kate & Leopold. (2001) Time travel romantic comedy, with Hugh Jackman. **2.50** Film: Entrapment. (1999) Crime thriller, starring Sean Connery. **5.05** Film: Hercules. (1997) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Tate Donovan.

**6.45 5 News Weekend.**

**6.50 Film: You, Me and Dupree.** (2006) Thirtysomething slacker Dupree finds himself out of a job with nowhere to live, and turns to his newly married best friend Carl for a place to stay. But Carl comes to regret his act of hospitality as the layabout shows no sign of ever moving out – not to mention his annoyance when his new wife takes a liking to their laid-back guest. Comedy, starring Owen Wilson, Matt Dillon, Kate Hudson and Michael Douglas. Edited for language and sexual content.

**9.00 Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

**10.00 Film: A Deadly Adoption.** (2015) Premiere. A successful couple take in a pregnant woman, hoping to adopt her baby, but the arrangement has perilous consequences. Thriller spoof, starring Will Ferrell.

**11.45 Film: Assumed Killer.** (2013) An amnesiac news reporter begins to suspect her husband is the serial killer she was investigating when she lost her memory. Thriller, starring Barbie Castro and Casper Van Dien. Edited for content.

**1.30** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Highlights  
**8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Film: Shanghai Knights (2003) **10.45** Russell Howard's Good News **11.45** Family Guy **12.10** American Dad! **12.30** Family Guy **12.55** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **1.55** Uncle 3.25 Russell Howard's Good News **3.55** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **4.00** Close

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Dalai Lama at 80 **7.30** Schonbrunn Summer Night Concert from Vienna **9.00** Pappano's Classic Voices **10.00** Film: Far from the Madding Crowd (1967) **12.40** Dalai Lama at 80 **1.10** Rock 'n' Roll America **2.10** Schonbrunn Summer Night Concert from Vienna **3.40** Close

**ITV2**

**11.30** Take Me Out **12.40** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.25** Love Island **2.30** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **4.15** Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **6.30** Film: Jurassic Park (1993) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Film: Scary Movie V (2013) **11.50** Fake Reaction **12.30** Love Island **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Life's Funniest Moments **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.05** Film: Columbus: Swan Song (1974) **1.20** Goodbye Mr Chips **3.20** Wylliffe **4.35** Film: The Railway Children (1970) **6.50** Inspector Morse **9.00** Joanna Lumley: The Search for Noah's Ark **10.30** Film: The American President (1995) **12.50** Blue Murder **2.05** Cornwall with Gary Quentin **2.50** Man About the House **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

**ITV4**

**11.00** The Cycle Show **12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Tour de France Live **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.30** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Greg LeMond: Slaying the Badger **9.50** Movies Now **10.00** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **1.10** Hell on Wheels **2.05** Tour de France Highlights **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**12.00** Couples Come Dine with Me **2.00** Film: Penelope (2006) **3.50** Rudie(s) Tube Shorts **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.30** Film: The Net (1995) **7.45** Rudie(s) Tube Shorts **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Gogglebox **12.05** The IT Crowd **1.15** Tattoo Fixers **2.15** Tattoos After Dark **3.00** My Mad Fat Diary **3.35** Hollyoaks

**Film4**

**11.00** Bend of the River (1952) **1.00** The Parent Trap (1998) **3.40** Earthquake (1974) **6.15** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **9.00** Colombiana (2011) **11.10** The Client (1994) **1.30** Holy Motors (2012) **3.50** Close

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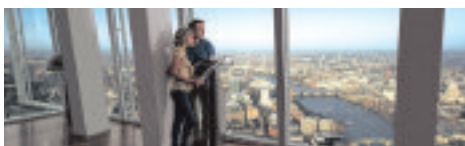


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Saturday 5 September 2015

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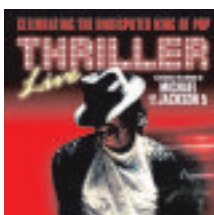


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at Madame Tussauds

Saturday 5 September 2015

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**The Trail to Hope Rose**, Channel 5, 3.15pm  
A former outlaw trying to make a fresh start in a mining town is tempted by an old friend to carry out a payroll robbery. Western, starring Lou Diamond Phillips and Ernest Borgnine. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2004)

**TUESDAY**  
**Imagine: Beware of Mr Baker**, BBC1, 10.35pm  
In this award-winning documentary, Cream drummer Ginger Baker reflects on his 60-year career, which began in the jazz clubs of Soho and led to sell-out stadium concerts, via the back streets of Lagos, Nigeria. Director Jay Bulger catches up with the musician at his South African ranch to talk drums, drugs and everything in-between. However, it remains to be seen whether the young film-maker has bitten off more than he can chew. (2012)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Negotiator**, Channel 5, 3.15pm  
A desperate mother takes the patients and staff of an entire hospital hostage, demanding a rare experimental drug for her daughter, who is dying of cancer. An FBI agent is assigned to resolve the crisis, but faces a conflict of loyalties when she realises the girl in question is a friend of her own child. Thriller, starring Elisabeth Rohm and Chandra West. (2005)



Hard Target, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Lone Rider**, Channel 5, 3.15pm  
A veteran of the American Civil War returns to his home town to discover a former friend, who has become a ruthless land baron, is intent on seizing his father's ranch, forcing the hardened soldier to take up arms once more to protect his family and property. Western, starring Lou Diamond Phillips. (2008)

**FRIDAY**  
**Hard Target**, ITV, 11.10pm  
A woman searching for her missing father hires an out-of-work merchant sailor to guide her through the streets of New Orleans, where his martial arts skills are greatly tested in a series of encounters with sadistic hunters of human prey. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. (1993)

Horticultural enthusiasts put their skills to the test

Celebrity gardeners have been around almost since TV was invented – after all, Britons do tend to take great pride in their horticultural havens.

Percy Thrower was perhaps the first green-fingered small-screen superstar, and he inspired several generations of youngsters thanks to his appearances on Blue Peter from 1974 to 1987 – some may remember that Percy was behind the creation of the programme's garden at Television Centre.

Other famous faces have come and gone over the years, and during the past couple of decades, a few have tended to have very apt names indeed – think of Alan Titchmarsh, Bob Flowerdew and Pippa Greenwood, and you'll see what we mean; it's almost as if they were born to do a specific job.

Now there's a new name to add to that list, and his moniker is even more fitting than those mentioned above. Anthony Gardner is a garden designer by trade, and he's much in demand, having won numerous awards for his work.

He was also recently diagnosed as having Asperger's syndrome. He believes the condition has helped him get to the top of his profession, and now he wants to find out if others with conditions that, like Asperger's, fall within the autistic syndrome, can excel as horticulturalists too.

"What makes us autists such great gardeners is what goes on in our weirdly wired minds," says Alan. "I want to prove that we're not mad...we just see things in a different way."

"Not a lot of people know that mathematical formulas occur in flowers, stamens, petals, leaves, and from these mathematical sequences you can create patterns to actually construct brilliant gardens."

During this new, four-part programme, he will chart the progress of five people as they join forces to transform neglected plots into something of which even Capability Brown himself would have been proud.

They have just a week to carry out each task, and must stick to a strict budget – but as time and finance are

alien concepts to the participants, that may prove trickier than anybody else could imagine.

Among the team is Thomas, who is 19 and struggles to communicate, but loves the order and precision of horticulture. Charles, meanwhile, is a decade older, has a passion for vegetables and dreams of living entirely off the land.

Philip is 30 and is the group's exotic plant expert; he has more than 60 species of cacti in his collection, while James, 25, is a walking plant encyclopaedia, but can't make eye contact with those around him.

Finally, there's Victoria, who is a 27-year-old with a flair for colour.

The group's first task sees them travel to Ashbourne in Derbyshire, where homeowners Ben and Rebecca have an overgrown wilderness where their back garden should be. What they want in exchange for that is a low-maintenance and fun garden that their entire family can enjoy.

With a budget of £3,000, Alan and the gang set to work – here's hoping their efforts live up to expectations.



Alan Gardner features, The Autistic Gardener, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Vicious**  
ITV, 9pm  
Freddie and Stuart prepare for their big day, but things run far from smoothly with the appearance of an unexpected guest at the wedding, and it's not long before the blissful event becomes a potential disaster. Violet announces that her husband Jasper has returned and warns Ash not to flirt with her in front of him as he is insanely jealous, while Penelope and Mason hit a series of snags when they are sent to collect the wedding cake. Comedy, starring Ian McKellen, Derek Jacobi, Frances de la Tour and Iwan Rheon. Last in the series.

**TUESDAY**  
**Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners**  
Channel 4, 8pm  
Cleaning obsessives Hayley and Dann head for Plas Teg, a 17th-century Jacobean manor in the heart of Flintshire, north Wales. This 10-bedroom Italian-inspired residence is home to Cornelia and her 12 cats, and is also said to be one of the most haunted houses in Wales. Cornelia is desperate to generate income to restore the Grade I listed building to its former glory, so Hayley and Dann have agreed to spend five days cleaning alongside her, pushing their boundaries and challenging their germ phobia.

**Virgin Atlantic**  
ITV, 9pm  
Founded back in June 1984, Virgin Atlantic has just celebrated it's 30th year as one of the world's leading airlines. This documentary series goes behind the scenes of the business, following staff at all levels, from founder Richard Branson, and the Chief Exec to new cabin crew recruits and the boys in the warehouse, as the company rolls out a new plane, new uniforms and new people – and tries to get back in the black. In episode one, we meet the team at the Virgin Atlantic base in Crawley, preparing for the airline's birthday event, as Branson, who founded the airline when he was just 34, makes a rare appearance. Cameras also follow 58-year-old grandmother Katrina, who is hoping to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a 'trolley dolly'.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Children of the Gaza War**  
BBC2, 9pm  
During the past six years, children growing up on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have experienced three wars. One of these conflicts,

which took place in 2014 and last 51 days, resulted in the deaths of more than 500 youngsters, all but of them Palestinian. Almost every child in Gaza has lost a family member to the ongoing unrest, while those on the Israeli side of the border live in constant fear of rocket attacks and raids from gunmen using underground tunnels. 'It's no not fair,' says 10-year-old Michal, who lives in a kibbutz less than a mile from the Gaza border. 'Your home is supposed to be the safest place in the world for you, but it's just not true.' He and others like him talks to presenter Lyse Dourcet about their often terrifying experiences.



Frank Skinner: Man in a Suit, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Grand Designs: Living in the City**  
Channel 4, 8pm  
New series. Kevin McCloud presents the first of four special programmes inspired by 15 years of Grand Designs. He begins with a look at the challenges of self-building in the city, where space is at a premium and architects have to be at their most ingenious. Kevin uses footage from the best urban builds from the show over the years, meets pioneers at the forefront of the latest architectural thinking and looks at clever innovations that continue to transform people's lives to reveal which designs work best and why.

**FRIDAY**  
**Frank Skinner: Man in a Suit**  
BBC1, 10.35pm  
For a while, it looked like Frank Skinner was mellowing. On panel shows in particular, he's positively genial, willing to take a back seat and let the guests hog the spotlight on Room 101. But don't let that fool you into thinking that Skinner isn't as sharp as ever, especially when it comes to stand-up. This show was filmed during his 2014 tour, his first in seven years, and finds that while he may have grown up a bit since the laddish days of Fantasy Football, he's still capable of brilliantly funny and occasionally filthy one-liners. The set also finds him musing on the nature of fame, and his own spot in the celebrity pecking order – and if this is show is anything to go by, he'll be at the top of the comedy tree for quite some time.

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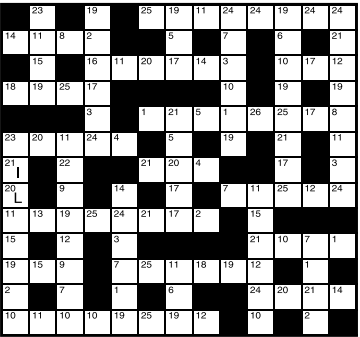
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

K	T	W	S	Y	B	A	O	J	I	N	R	H
E	D	O	M	P	U	F	G	V	X	L	Z	C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Reduced to the lowest level (5)
- 4. Fruit is when rain's about (7)
- 8. You might find merit in the meantime (7)
- 9. He lives an ordered existence (5)
- 10. A minor drawback (4)
- 11. Not very bright but in charge of the players (8)
- 13. Regrets the ways of the French (4)
- 14. Fifty-one and single (4)
- 16. It's always torn out with great respect (8)
- 17. Heavenly arts review (4)
- 20. Letter comes from a number unusually late (5)
- 21. Country where men burst into song (7)
- 22. Objects about the French not finishing (7)
- 23. Make fun of one's peers (5)

Down

- 1. It takes over lines of communication (7,6)
- 2. Wood spirit (5)
- 3. Read as a challenge (4)
- 4. Take out a form (6)
- 5. It's not so good, being a subordinate (8)
- 6. Flatter most sincerely (7)
- 7. He may get carried away without knowing it (9,4)
- 12. Shrink - and iron? (8)
- 13. Certainly given no encouragement to save up! (7)
- 15. Inserts in songs (6)
- 18. Singer put right after the wrong note (5)
- 19. A doctor's name (4)

Quick Clues:

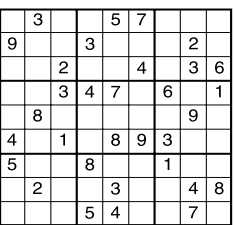
Across

- 1. Protect (5)
- 4. Take prisoner (7)
- 8. Umpire (7)
- 9. Deign (5)
- 10. Moist (4)
- 11. Gift (8)
- 13. Lash (4)
- 14. Dash (4)
- 16. Amount (8)
- 17. Dreadful (4)
- 20. Ethics of a community (5)
- 21. Train (7)
- 22. Torture (7)
- 23. Clothing (5)

Down

- 1. Bombastic (13)
- 2. Set of records (5)
- 3. Function (4)
- 4. Box (6)
- 5. Fairly good (8)
- 6. Ideal (7)
- 7. High cost (13)
- 12. Aversion (8)
- 13. Climate (7)
- 15. Road (6)
- 18. Angry (5)
- 19. Store (4)

Sudoku



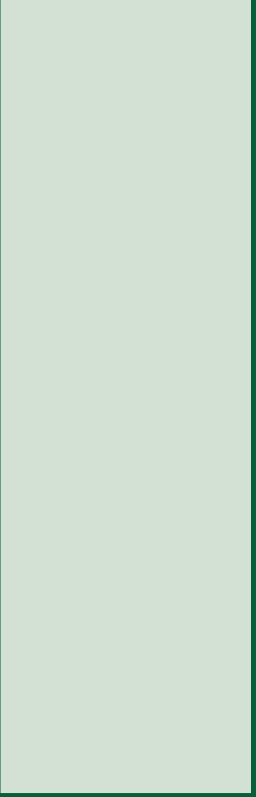
Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	5	2	8	4	9	6	3	7
6	7	3	5	1	8	2	4	9
4	8	3	7	2	6	1	5	9
7	9	8	6	1	2	5	4	3
3	4	5	9	8	7	2	1	6
2	1	6	5	3	4	9	7	8
9	6	4	2	7	5	3	8	1
5	3	7	1	9	8	4	6	2
8	2	1	4	6	3	7	9	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 3. Protester; 8. Floor; 9. Palatable; 10. Reefer; 11. Harem; 14. Skier; 15. Warm; 16. Sedan; 18. Land; 20. Olive; 21. Souls; 24. Slight; 25. Took place; 26. Shoe; 27. Gradients. Down: 1. Sparks fly; 2. Comedians; 4. Rear; 5. Tars; 6. Seaweed; 7. Eels; 9. Peers; 11. Hides; 12. Making the; 13. Amnesties; 17. Noble; 19. Docked; 22. Lille; 23. Moor; 24. Scot. QUICK - Across: 3. Slumbered; 8. Loop; 9. Fabricate; 10. Origin; 11. Chasm; 14. Amiss; 15. Saver; 16. Tibia; 18. Cite; 20. Range; 21. Exude; 24. Mentor; 25. Ingenious; 26. Edit; 27. Fertility. Down: 1. Allowance; 2. Novitate; 4. Lean; 5. March; 6. Excess; 7. Eats; 9. First; 11. Cable; 12. Magnitude; 13. Desecrate; 17. Anies; 19. Expect; 22. Drill; 23. Once; 24. Must.

Thinking space



Quiz

- 1. Which poet wrote Paradise Lost?
- 2. Who was the eldest son of Queen Victoria?
- 3. Which Welsh actor was born Richard Jenkins in 1925?
- 4. How did bank robber Ned Kelly die?
- 5. When was the first London to Brighton veteran car rally?
- 6. With which item of clothing would you associate Mary Phelps Jacob?
- 7. Which Apollo 12 astronauts made the second moon landing?
- 8. On what date was the Anglo-Irish Agreement signed?
- 9. What is the Sooner state of the U.S.A.?
- 10. Where is the Sea of Rains?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Martin Luther King; 2 Andy Warhol; 3 Potomac; 4 Capricorn; 5 Herbert George; 6 Mars; 7 Sweden; 8 Austria; 9 Murder; 10 1941. Niner: SIGNATURE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1697 gives an insect,  
4569 gives an animal,  
83258 gives a fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Barn conversion has an idyllic setting near hills



**SHUT** Mill Barn in Shut Mill Lane, Romsley, is an attached barn conversion ideally placed for commuting.

It is for sale through Allan Morris estate agents at £449,950. Close to the Clent Hills this splendid barn conversion lies back from a scenic country lane. It has a sweeping gravelled driveway bordered by a brook fed from the millpond which stands behind a neighbouring cottage.

The house has a splendid dining hall with a galleried landing and timbered ceiling, an inner hallway with a WC, a lounge with an inglenook fireplace and log burner, a ground floor fourth bedroom/study, breakfast kitchen, electric oven, hob and hood, utility, first floor master bedroom with a dressing room and en suite, two further double bedrooms and a bathroom, gardens and double garage. Contact Allan Morris Estate Agents on 01562 747755 or visit [www.allan-morris.co.uk](http://www.allan-morris.co.uk)



## A traditional family home with gardens

A LOVELY traditional three-bedroomed family home, 31 Lord Street, Bilston, is for sale through Your Move at £110,000.

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On the first floor there are three good-sized bedrooms and a bathroom and a separate WC. The property has majority double glazing and also an high efficiency electric heating system.

There are attractive gardens to the front and rear plus a summerhouse.

Contact Your Move on 01902 771511 or visit [www.your-move.co.uk](http://www.your-move.co.uk)



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<p><b>Oldbury</b></p>  <p><b>Edward Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Spacious three bedroom semi-detached house</li><li>* Living room and dining room</li><li>* Kitchen and utility</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Bathroom</li><li>* Garage</li><li>* Beautiful rear garden</li></ul> <p>EPC=E</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £189,950</b></p>	<p><b>Halesowen</b></p>  <p><b>Gower Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Spacious detached house</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Lounge * Dining room</li><li>* Breakfast kitchen &amp; Re-fitted bathroom</li><li>* Utility/WC</li><li>* Delightful garden</li></ul> <p>EPC=E</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £264,950</b></p>	<p><b>Halesowen</b></p>  <p><b>Chantry Drive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Two bedroom bungalow</li><li>* Side garage</li><li>* Living room</li><li>* Kitchen</li><li>* Bathroom</li><li>* Side garage</li></ul> <p>EPC=D</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £205,000</b></p>	<p><b>Halesowen Hurst Green</b></p>  <p><b>Lansdowne Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Semi-detached house</li><li>* Through living room</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Bathroom</li><li>* Side garage</li></ul> <p>EPC=D</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £154,950</b></p>
<p><b>Halesowen</b></p>  <p><b>Kent Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Detached house</li><li>* Corner position</li><li>* Four bedrooms (one on the ground floor)</li><li>* Wet room/wc</li><li>* House bathroom with shower cubicle and en-suite shower</li><li>* Detached garage (access via Highland Ridge)</li></ul> <p>EPC=D</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £329,950</b></p>	<p><b>Quinton</b></p>  <p><b>Trevanite Avenue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Link-detached house</li><li>* Extended living room and extended re-fitted kitchen</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Ground floor and first floor shower rooms</li><li>* Low maintenance rear garden</li></ul> <p>EPC=E</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £220,000</b></p>	<p><b>Halesowen</b></p>  <p><b>Newlands Drive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Extended semi detached house</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Kitchen/dining room</li><li>* Through living room</li><li>* Lovely rear garden</li><li>* Small side garage</li></ul> <p>EPC=E</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £185,000</b></p>	<p><b>Oldbury</b></p>  <p><b>Swan Crescent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Semi-detached house</li><li>* Kitchen/dining room</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Off road parking</li></ul> <p>EPC=D</p> <p><b>Offers in excess of £130,000</b></p>
<p><b>Oldbury</b></p>  <p><b>Pound Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Semi detached house</li><li>* Recently re-planned and modernised</li><li>* Two reception rooms</li><li>* Three Bedrooms</li><li>* Kitchen with breakfast area</li></ul> <p>EPC=D</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £185,000</b></p>	<p><b>Halesowen</b></p>  <p><b>Middlefield Avenue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Semi detached house</li><li>* Through living room and dining room and extended kitchen</li><li>* Utility and wc</li><li>* Four bedrooms</li><li>* Garage</li><li>* Good sized rear garden</li></ul> <p>EPC=D</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £224,950</b></p>	<p><b>Oldbury</b></p>  <p><b>Broadway Court Pottery Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Second floor flat</li><li>* Kitchen/living room</li><li>* Bedroom</li><li>* Bathroom</li></ul> <p>EPC=C</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £89,950</b></p>	<p><b>Oldbury</b></p>  <p><b>Chester Rise</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Mid Terraced house</li><li>* Three bedrooms</li><li>* Modern Kitchen</li><li>* Rear Garden</li></ul> <p>EPC=C</p> <p><b>Offers in the region of £124,950</b></p>



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### WILLOW AVENUE, EDGBASTON

UNIQUE detached bungalow with 23ft lounge having original features. 22ft kitchen diner to rear & bedroom with en-suite & further bedroom/reception room to rear. SUPERB 1st floor conversion with 16ft master bedroom, study/dressing area & REFITTED bathroom. Driveway & garage to front. Extensive lawn gardens to rear. EPC rating: E Ref: HHB12

BEARWOOD

**£325,000**



### FOREST ROAD, OLDBURY

STUNNING semi with GARAGE & driveway. REFITTED 14ft kitchen & separate utility & WC. 21ft lounge to rear with 14ft dining room. 4 bedrooms & REFITTED luxury bath & shower room. Lawn gardens to rear. GCH & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1642

QUINTON

**£239,950**



### CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY

IMMACULATE semi-detached home with potential to extend to the side. REFURBISHED throughout including REFITTED 17ft kitchen diner & 15ft lounge to front. Benefits from d/s WC. 3 bedrooms & LUXURY REFITTED bathroom. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. DRIVEWAY to front, lawn garden to rear. EPC rating: D Ref: D1645

QUINTON

**£189,950**



### SHERWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK

SPACIOUS & EXTENDED home close to Bearwood High Street & parks. Reception room to front & OPEN PLAN kitchen diner to rear leading to lean-to utility room. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 bedrooms on first floor. Low maintenance gardens. Gas central heating & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: Ref: D1568

QUINTON

**£170,000**



### ST KATHERINES ROAD, OLDBURY

WELL PRESENTED & EXTENDED home in cul-de-sac location. 25ft lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. Utility area & office with store room. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms. DRIVEWAY & southerly facing rear garden. GCH & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D

BEARWOOD

**£149,950**



### DEFFORD DRIVE, OLDBURY

Well presented, traditional style semi detached, CONVENIENTLY SITUATED within this POPULAR NEIGHBOURHOOD, having gas radiator heating, double glazing with 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, GARAGE & pleasant Garden. EPC E.

BEARWOOD

**£144,950**



### SALOP ROAD, OLDBURY

Well presented, THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED end terraced property, convenient position, having double glazing, gas radiator heating, delightful lounge, FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN, 3 bedrooms, RE-FITTED SHOWER ROOM, pleasant rear garden. EPC fbc. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

BEARWOOD

**£124,950**



### VALLEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

Deceptively spacious, well proportioned, 3 bedroomed end terraced property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising: - Entrance vestibule, lounge, fitted dining kitchen (with integral oven/hob and integrated fridge), rear vestibule area (having downstairs wc off), 3 bedrooms,

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### LANGLEY CRESCENT, OLDBURY

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QUINTON

**£117,500**



### CLIFTON ROAD, SMETHWICK

WELL PRESENTED home. Having gas radiator heating and double glazing. Requiring internal inspection and comprising of 2 reception rooms & FITTED kitchen. SUPERB d/s bathroom. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms. Pleasant low maintenance rear garden. .EPC E

BEARWOOD

**£109,950**



# Family home in Tipton has had major extension



**AN imposing residence, 49 Woodcroft Avenue, Tipton, has been significantly extended and well maintained.**

It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £250,000 with no chain.

In a cul-de-sac, it was built in the late 1940s and has had a substantial kitchen extension and garage. It includes a reception hall, through lounge with an Adam-style fireplace, a dining room, cellage, shower/wet room, breakfast kitchen with fridge/freezer, electric oven, breakfast bar and dishwasher, utility, three bedrooms and a shower room. Contact Taylors estate agents on 01902 880888 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



# Detached house has an impressive diner kitchen



**A SUBSTANTIAL detached family residence with a stunning dining kitchen, 94 Ivy-house Lane, Coseley, is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £235,000.**

With central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall with parquet flooring, WC, living room with a cast iron gas burner, dining room with a briquette fireplace with a timber beam and a coal-effect gas fire, parquet flooring and a bay window, kitchen with granite worktops, oven with cooker hood, fridge, freezer and dishwasher, laundry room, pantry, WC, three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), bathroom with a white suite, a rear garden with patio, decking and lawn, and a garage.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 686868 or visit [www.skitts.net](http://www.skitts.net) website.



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**STOURBRIDGE, Trinity Road£695 pcm+Fees**  
●FULLY REFURBISHED● A lovely detached house in a very popular location in a quiet cul-de-sac position comprising of brand new kitchen leading to a very spacious lounge overlooking a full width conservatory, 3 spacious bedrooms & a fabulous appointed bathroom with shower, integrated garage, driveway for 2 cars, low maintenance garden. Available now. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Hill Top Avenue£675 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely detached family home having been newly decorated & carpeted in this very popular location close to bus links/shops. A welcoming hallway leads to the lounge with patio doors to conservatory. A large modern kitchen with integrated appliances and separate dining area. Stairs off lounge leading to 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom suite with shower. Beautiful rear garden with decking, driveway parking for 2 vehicles. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Norwood Avenue£625 pcm+Fees**  
Located on a sought after Timberfrees Estate. Having been fully renovated throughout, this house is not to be missed. Featuring a welcoming porch and entrance hallway, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with some appliances, utility area, modern bathroom with shower, 3 good size bedrooms with a further room off bedroom 3 for a study etc, driveway parking and rear garden. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Beecher Road£625 pcm+Fees**  
Newly decorated & new carpets throughout is this unfurnished detached house featuring gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway parking for several cars, large rear garden. Available Now. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane£575 pcm+Fees**  
A superb fully re-furnished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Wiltshire Drive£575 pcm+Fees**  
Located on the Homer Hill Estate. A semi-detached home briefly featuring 1 double bedroom and 2 single bedrooms, spacious lounge, large kitchen with dining area, family bathroom with telephone shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, off road parking, unfurnished. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Wrights Lane£575 pcm+Fees**  
A short distance from Old Hill shops and local train station is this well presented unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: 3 bedrooms, modern fitted diner kitchen, lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, on road parking to front. EPC: B/C



**HALESOWEN, Colley Lane £550 pcm+Fees**  
Wonderfully presented and modern mid-terrace house on a popular road which is close to Colley Gate Primary School and local shops features 2 double bedrooms, dining kitchen, modern lounge with feature fireplace, bathroom with P shaped bath with shower, maintenance free garden, parking to the rear of property for 2 vehicles. Available 1st August. Not to be missed! EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm+Fees**  
An extremely well maintained 2 bedroom semi detached property situated towards the head of a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station. Featuring a great living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, recently installed double glazing, driveway, gas central heating and easy to maintain rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Surfeit Hill Road£550 pcm+Fees**  
An ideal family home situated between Old Hill and Cradley Heath. This 3 bed semi features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, good size bedrooms and driveway parking. A long term rental is available. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Holt Road £550 pcm+Fees**  
A nicely presented refurbished mid terrace home, close to local shops. Featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, small rear garden, on road parking. Available Now. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Fatherless Barn Crescent£525 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished 3 bedroom semi detached family home within the catchment area for Colley Lane Primary School and the number 9 bus. Featuring an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen & utility, 3 good size bedrooms & upstairs walk in shower room, large rear garden & driveway. Available Now. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Richmond Street£525 pcm+Fees**  
Located in central Halesowen. This lovely 2 double bedroom property features a great size lounge, large dining kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. This property will not last long. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hope Street £495 pcm+Fees**  
A fully refurbished ground floor apartment, like brand new, and having large lounge, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and refitted bathroom. The apartment has double glazing, newly fitted electric heating, garage and rear garden. EPC: E



**ROWLEY REGIS, Habberley Road£495 pcm+Fees**  
This lovely unfurnished mid terrace home is located close to local shops, and minutes away from J2 of the M5. Briefly comprising of 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden and off road parking. EPC: E



**ROWLEY REGIS, Oldbury Road£425 pcm+Fees**  
Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat above shop. Gas central heating, part double glazing, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, on road parking. Rent includes water rates. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Richmond Court£425 pcm+Fees**  
A unfurnished 1 bed 1st floor flat that has recently been decorated. Featuring kitchen with integrated appliances, living room, lovely modern shower room, electric storage heating and on road parking. This property is close to Huntingtree Park and a few minutes drive to Halesowen Town Centre. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Teme Road £395 pcm+Fees**  
A very well presented and close to Colley Lane Primary School, is this furnished to suit ground floor apartment. Briefly comprising of 2 double bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, family bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



**ROWLEY REGIS, Winchester Close£395 pcm+Fees**  
A well presented, unfurnished 1st floor apartment, close to the M5 J2. This apartment features 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Lyde Green £395 pcm+Fees**  
Located on the popular Homer Hill Estate in Halesowen is this unfurnished 2nd floor flat, comprising of: Living room/fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal garden, garage, and residents parking. Available now. EPC: E



**LYE, High Street £375 pcm+Fees**  
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This spacious 2nd floor apartment features a lovely lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, modern and contemporary kitchen/ diner, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. Available now. EPC: E



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AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box No: 418117

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTm similar male for romantic liaisons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009

GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box No: 412933

SHARON, 46, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTm single dad aged 39 to 45. Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. Tel No: 0906 515 4282 Box No: 412369

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No: 366019

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, rugby fan, WLTm genuine male who will accept her as she is. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTm uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

ELLEN 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. AKA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651

SLIM fair-haired lady, 5ft6 looking for a male 30 to 40 for ltr in Warwickshire area. Text only Mailbox Box No: 4527227

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

ATTRACTIVE lady, young looking, single would love to meet uniformed officer. Must be sincere and genuine. Text only to Mailbox No: 4727985

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419

ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417513

CARING lovely curvy female 41 seeks genuine and caring guy. Text only to Mailbox No: 4721992

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419

TRACY, 39, brunette, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer someone special. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417417

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

JEAN, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285

## Men seeking women

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WIDOWER 70 plus, seeking female for friendship. Love me love my dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417439

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PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991

DAVE 55, seeks tiny broadminded slim, small breasted, long hair blonde/ginger female for adult fun/LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 475127

CUDDLY 50 year old male, hard working, seeks genuine woman for days and nights out and no strings fun. Text only to Mailbox No: 4437594

DAVE 37 looking for a nice lady any age to have a laugh with so if that's you text me. Text only to Mailbox No: 4320134

DUBLINER, good sense of humour, strong and very fit would love to meet a warm sensitive lady, non smoker. Text only to Mailbox No: 4754715

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WIDOWER would love to meet female over 70 for friendship. Car owner. Fed up being lonely. Text only to Mailbox No: 4760869

MALE, 50yrs, caring, easy going seeks female 40/50 for friendship/relationship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4761012



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DENNIS 72, widower, seeking female, 60-65, for friendship, travel companion, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417927

TALL, dark, slim, attractive guy, 48, seeks attractive female for no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 299904

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713

SHROPSHIRE male, 50, tall, dark, attractive, fun loving, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341387

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065

JOE 60s seeking fun loving lady for discreet LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 4257766

MIKE, 61, 5ft.5in, Coalville area seeking 30+ year old lady with long blonde hair and blue eyes for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4705967

MALE nurse, tall dark and handsome, 44yrs old, easy going, romantic, seeks female for lots of off duty fun and romance! Derby area. Text only to Mailbox No: 4172512

MALE 47, medium build, seeks female, 40-50 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415651

BBW lover looking for fun and frolics in the afternoon or evening. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417795

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417201

MALE, medium build, down to earth, salt & pepper hair, GOSH, Sincere, WLTm someone similar. Text only to Mailbox No: 4744385

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**LOST**—Small timid ginger and white cat from Canterbury Road, Penn on June 26. 01902 652878.

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**2**

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**caravans / motorhomes**

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**COLSALT STRATHMORE SALTIC CARAVAN**

38ft x 12ft, 2-bedrooms, on five star park, Talyllyn, Barmouth, DG, CH, full decking recently done, mountain views, 5 minutes to sea, dog friendly, excellent condition.

Bargain £15,000. 07530 871890.

**SALE OF 150 New and Pre-Owned Touring Caravans and Motorhomes in stock. Prices starting from £1,995 Swift, Sprite, Sterling, Bailey, Elddis, Coachman, Bessacarr. 7 day service department. 2015 PRACTICAL CARAVAN DEALER OF THE YEAR. For more info call Paul on 07872 671153**

**MAXUS CAMPER**

2007, 2 owners, 15k miles, 2-berth, LWB, high top, 2.5VDM diesel, MoV Dec 2015, FSH, bed, hook up, 100 watt solar, oak kitchen, wash room, Thetford toilet, alloys, electric step, grap rails.

Other accessories available. £15,000. 01902 737671.

**SUPER BARGAIN**

**BLUEBIRD SUPER DELUXE CARAVAN**

1997 model, on Badgers Glade Holiday Park, Mid Wales. Nice clean condition inside and out, with large decking, 2 bedrooms, shower room and WC + separate WC. Ground rent paid till 2016. £7,500. 07944 384135.

**SUPER BARGAIN**

**COLSALT STRATHMORE SALTIC CARAVAN**

**SALE OF 150 New and Pre-Owned Touring Caravans and Motorhomes in stock. Prices starting from £1,995 Swift, Sprite, Sterling, Bailey, Elddis, Coachman, Bessacarr. 7 day service department. 2015 PRACTICAL CARAVAN DEALER OF THE YEAR. For more info call Paul on 07872 671153**

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Other accessories available. £15,000. 01902 737671.

**NEW 2015 STATIC CARAVAN**

£19,995 - Willerby Aurora 35 x 12 Two Bedrooms, Double Glazing, Central Heating. Available now on over 200 holiday park locations across the Heart Of England, Mid Wales & the Mid Wales Coast. Free Buyers Guide available call Scott on 07803290882

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35ft x 12ft, with large decking, on quiet site in Llanybrynmair, Mid Wales, with 2 carp pools, 20 minutes to nearest coast. Ground rent paid until November. £5,950 ono. Telephone 07555 303350.

**VENTURA CADET PORC AWING** Burgundy, excellent £100. Stat Mount stabiliser £10. Bulldog hitchlock £10. 0121 475 1113.

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**All Caravans Wanted** Any Age or Condition \*CASH \* WAITING\* Immediate collection Call 07787 833 833

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**FRIDGE FREEZER** Extra large very condition, Beko, white £80. 07796 795696.

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**ANTIQUE/COLL FAIR** Kinver Comm Centre, Sunday, 5th July, (also Bromsgrove every Friday) East 1979 Waverley, 0121 550 4123 Next Book Fair, Sunday 19th July.

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**3**

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**FRIDGE FREEZER** all complete. Excellent condition, £85. 07444 103 916.

**FRIDGE FREEZER** Extra large very condition, Beko, white £80. 07796 795696.

**t.v. / home entertainment**

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Local Investor pays you more  
Call any time

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Call today for a best price

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**6 Property**

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We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

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Call Aardvark 0121 308 7786

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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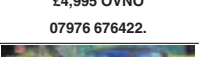
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**VAUXHALL ASTRA**  
**SPORTIVE SE**  
2008, 1.9 diesel, 130,000 miles,  
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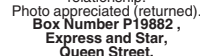
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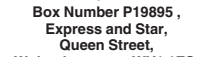
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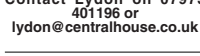
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# Sleek and stylish Italian

By Bill McCarthy

**Some car marques are associated with romance and glamour and Alfa Romeo is certainly one of those.**

The Italian manufacturer's names are legendary. Think of Stradale, Spider and Giulietta. They all evoke pictures of sleek, stylish thoroughbreds.

Fantastic to drive, if not always of the best build quality, Alfa nowadays has a modest stable of models, but the legendary Giulietta name lives on. The latest model is as stylish as anything on the road and offers something different – if not totally unfamiliar.

Up against some mighty opposition in the ultra-competitive C segment, it looks as good as you can get, sitting on smart alloys wheels with sleek, coupé styling, hidden rear handles, stylish lights and deep air scoops at the front. This range topper also

features side skirts, tank tinted windows and headlights and satin effect wing mirrors. Most eye-catching of all is the iconic Alfa shield, bisecting the grille.

Inside the car mirrors the sleek lines and curves, is well equipped and laid out with neat sports dials, while smart aluminium trim to dials, pedals, steering wheel and gear selector add to the classy feel. Extra luxury includes leather and microfibre seats with electric adjustment, sports steering wheel and darker roof headlining.

It is not all about style. It has hatchback practicality with good interior room and boot space that compares well with competitors and five people can fit inside.

The sloping nature of the design mean headroom is not great, and the consequently smaller glass areas means all round vision is compromised slightly.

The dash is dominated by a standard, five-inch infotainment screen which controls major functions like the standard sat nav, connectivity and sound system. It feels more substantial and solidly built than some earlier models.

It offers a choice of petrol and diesel engines and, with a nod to its sporty heritage, its own DNA system. This gives three driving modes, dynamic, for a more sporty drive, normal for, as the name suggests, normal driving and all weather to provide more grip. Each changes the driving dynamics of the car by altering engine, steering, suspension and gearbox characteristics. I found normal mode suited best in nearly all conditions with the car providing plenty of grunt, decent handling and surprisingly good economy. Switch to dynamic mode and the already sporty suspension stiffens up for a bit of fun, but it can feel harsh on lesser roads.



**'It has hatchback practicality with good interior room and boot space that compares well with competitors.'**

The two-litre 175bhp diesel powering this model packed plenty of punch, mated to a slick shifting, tiptronic semi automatic gearbox, it powered the car to 60mph from a standing start in just 7.8 seconds. Warm, bordering on hot performance, but still returning a claimed 64-odd mpg. Add to this respectable CO2 emissions of 116g/km and stop/start technology and you have a pretty economical car.

In practical terms, the 350 litres of boot space can be increased to 1,045 with the rear seats folded and there are other odd-

ment holders and storage bin between driver and passenger for extras stowage.

Standard kit is impressive with electric windows and door mirrors, climate control, a decent sound system, plus dimming rear view mirror, rains sensors, cooled glove-box and host of other goodies you would expect for a car of this price.

Safety is a key feature and the Alfa features six airbags, tyre pressure monitoring, front and rear parking sensors and stability control with hill hold capability.

Price: £25,630.



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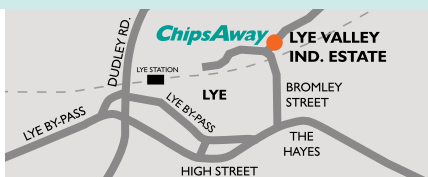
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# Insignia, is it back to the front?

By James Parker

**Vauxhall's Insignia is now the complete car it should always have been.**

With smarter looks, a classier cabin, hi-tech features and a more efficient engine range, the improved first generation version of Vauxhall's Insignia has now enhanced its already impressive CV for success in the medium range Mondeo sector. More than ever, it's a model you really can't afford to overlook.

Welcome to Britain's best selling traditional family car. Yes, you heard that right. That title belongs not to the kind of family models that make the headlines – fashionable Crossovers, practical People Carriers or sleeky SUVs – but to this one, Vauxhall's Insignia.

Launched in 2008 as a more stylish replacement for the uninspiring Vectra, this model was instantly well received, carrying off the coveted 2009 Car of the Year title and racking up impressive sales at the same time as other mainstream brands were struggling.

This improved model has had a thorough chassis update tested on proper bumpy British roads, with a redesigned rear suspension system to improve ride comfort and a steering calibration refreshment that's brought a more direct feel through the corners. And both of those issues can be further improved if you tick the extra-cost box for the FlexRide adaptive damping system.

Almost all Insignia buyers want a diesel and though the original version of Vauxhall's 2.0 CDTi unit had many merits, refinement wasn't one of them. In fact, it was one of the noisiest, rattliest diesels in its class. But isn't now. You feel that primarily with this unit in its latest 170PS 'Whisper diesel' guise, but the older-tech 120 and 140PS ecoFLEX units are also an improvement on older Vauxhall oil burners. The 195PS 2.0 BiTurbo diesel continues on at the top of the range. In the petrol line-up, there's also a cheap old-tech engine choice – the 140PS 1.8i unit – but again, more emphasis is being put on the modern turbo powerplant offerings, the 140PS 1.4T, the 170PS 1.6 SIDI and the 250PS 2.0 SIDI. At the top of the range, a 325PS 2.0 V6 continues in the VXR SuperSports model. This VXR has 4WD but the only other model in the range that gets it is the Country Tourer estate version which, with its raised ride height, aims to offer an SUV alternative.

## Bodystyles

Outside, there are detail improvements front and rear that aim to bring a wider and lower look to the hatch, saloon and Sports Tourer estate bodystyles that, as before, make up the range. And inside? Well it feels a great deal more up to date, with many of the previously scattered and confusing little buttons tied up onto a (sadly optional) central 8-inch colour touchscreen that deals with everything from navigation to audio selections, Bluetooth 'phone functions to a series of Vauxhall-sourced apps.

Out back, the hatch most choose offers a 530-litre boot – with 540-litres on offer in the Sports Tourer estate.

In theory, Insignia pricing covers a very wide span – anywhere between £17,000 and £33,000. In practice, almost all Insignia sales are concentrated in the £17,000 to £22,000 bracket, with most of those going to business buyers who usually want one of the 2.0-litre CDTi diesel variants. Paying much more than that for this car takes it into the BMW 3 Series dominated compact executive saloon bracket where mainstream makers usually struggle. Talking of saloons, there's is a four-door Insignia saloon bodystyle as a no-cost option to the more familiar five-door hatch, but it comes with a much smaller range of trim and engine choices.

For my test, I chose the Sports Tourer estate bodystyle, which is offered at a premium of around £1,500 over an equivalent hatch. Unlike the mainstream models of the other bodystyles, this one can be had with 4WD but to get it, you have to stretch up to a top of the range Country Tourer version priced in the £25,000 to £30,000 bracket and aiming to snare RAV4 and Freelander folk who'd normally be looking at a compact SUV. The other key variant worthy of mention is the flagship VXR SuperSports model which has a potentially thirsty petrol V6 but offers more performance for a £30,000 budget than you'll get almost anywhere else.

Around 85 per cent of Insignia buyers go for a diesel – and you can see why. Both 120 and 140PS versions of the 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX model return 76.3mpg on the combined cycle and put out just 98g/km of CO2, returns that at launch were comfortably class-leading. Go for the extra performance of the 2.0 CDTi 170PS variant and there's not a huge price to pay at the pumps. This variant will deliver 65.7mpg on the combined cycle.

Thinking of buying a petrol-powered Insignia? If you're a lower mileage driver, perhaps the prospect might be worthy of a thought or two. The brand's current generation of turbo petrol units all do better than you'd expect on the balance sheet: the 140PS 1.4T manages 54.3mpg and 123g/km, the 170PS 1.6 SIDI delivers 47.9mpg and 139g/km and the 250PS 2.0 SIDI returns 39.2mpg and 169g/km.

This car isn't completely new – but it feels that way behind the wheel thanks to all the fresh cabin infotainment and the higher quality feel. Those that are tempted by the shinier prospects of newer rivals will, Vauxhall hopes, be brought back into the Insignia fold by class-leading running costs.



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# Best car in niche market

By John Griffiths

**It isn't that often that when you buy a car, you get a driving companion to go with it . . .**

But Subaru's latest flagship comes with an extra pair of 'eyes' (and feet) which are there to keep you and your car safer on the roads. Or since this is the new Outback, off the roads, too.

It's showcases the company's new 'Eyesight' system which uses a stereo camera to recognise hazards, warn the driver, and then cut the throttle, brake and/or steer around the danger if needs be.

The original Outback was launched 20 years ago as a beefed up version of Subaru's all-wheel drive Legacy estate car which significantly improved off-road, all weather abilities and became much beloved of country vets, among others.

It's something of a niche market but one which has spawned a host of imitators as car makers target the active leisure as well as the workhorse sector.

The new model comes with a choice of 2.5 litre petrol or 2.0 litre diesel engines, the option of automatic transmission and prices from £28,995 to £32,995.

Even in an ever growing and more competitive niche in the market, the Outback manages to drive its own road. It's cheaper than many alternative SUVs and 'premium' rivals, but with more genuine go-anywhere ability than cheaper rivals adapted from road-going estates with the addition of part-time four wheel drive.

But while this new model has gone upmarket, with a greatly improved interior and lots of extra equipment, including the Eyesight system, Subaru has also made it more fuel efficient to reduce fuel and tax costs. The design is sleeker than its predecessor, although it's looks are more rugged than sporty as befits

its role. The 200mm ground clearance and big plastic bumpers front and rear are clues (and necessities) for its off-road capabilities too.

It's also longer and wider, with room for five passengers in comfort and a useful 559 litres of cargo space with the rear seats up.

Big tyres on 18 inch rims and the new suspension ensure a particularly comfortable ride for a dual role vehicle but the Outback retains its dynamic abilities on the road. The steering is sharp and accurate, and as well as the permanent four wheel drive system it now has an active torque vectoring system.

It also plays its part in the overall active safety set up by helping the driver if you have to swerve suddenly to avoid a collision.

## Nimble

These are some of the technologies which make the Outback feel light and nimble even on bendy B-roads: you are never conscious of its obvious size and weight as you are with a more traditionally styled SUV.

But it's the Eyesight system of which Subaru is particularly proud. It's only available on the Lineatronic versions and uses a stereo camera mounted behind the rear view mirror. It scans the road ahead and can tell the difference between solid objects, pedestrians and cyclists, and even spot the brake lights of a car in front coming on.

I was able to test its effectiveness on an old airfield. You might be surprised how hard it is to overcome your survival instincts and deliberately drive at a solid object but I shouldn't have worried. At 30mph, the Outback gave an audible and visual warning and if you still don't react the car applies its braking power automatically, bringing you to a stop.

I didn't get a chance to go off-road in the new car, but I well remember tackling gravel forest tracks in the previous model, reaching speeds of 60mph with no slip and slide.

But its performance should be better, with the addition of the new torque vectoring sys-



tem and the X-Mode button which reconfigures the various systems for rugged terrain, including a hill descent control to help you crawl safely down steep, slippery slopes.

Both petrol and diesel engines have been heavily modified compared to the last Outback, with fuel efficiency the target. And there's even a front grille which opens and closes automatically for a quicker warm-up with improved air flow on the open road.

The 2.5 litre petrol engine comes with the Lineatronic system (there's no manual option) which is a CVT automatic system with seven preset ratios if you want to change gears manually. Compared to its predecessor, power is up from 167 to 175PS, but fuel consumption is improved to 40.7mpg and CO2 emissions are down several tax bands from 175 to 161g/km (VED band G).

The 2.0 litre diesel comes with the option of auto or six-speed manual transmissions. It has 148bhp and a hefty 350NM of torque and is both a little quicker and more economical than its petrol sibling.

Not surprisingly it's the diesel (the world's only boxer diesel engine) which is expected to account for the majority of sales in the UK.

While Subaru has good reasons for believing its Outback is best of the bunch when it comes to off-road ability, there's a lot of work gone into giving the interior a much more up-market, premium feel to win over buyers from the big-name brands.

The most striking thing is the new seven-inch touch screen information and control panel, as well as voice control: you can now tell the satnav where you want to go, without keying in an address.

The whole cabin has a higher grade feel, with improved plastics, tactile leather controls and chrome trim highlights. With new aerodynamic and soundproofing measures, the Outback feels rather more refined, too. In some ways, that sums up the new Outback: rugged yet refined. It is a true go (almost) anywhere vehicle which will outperform even some dedicated SUVs when the going gets rough yet it looks and feels like a premium estate.

It's price isn't cheap for most of us, but it is highly competitive amongst a raft of rival vehicles and its running costs have been reduced, making it look an even better bet in fuel economy and tax terms than many luxury SUVs or even its predecessor.

Subaru's ambitions for Outback sales are relatively modest, but even in a niche market it's best to be the best.

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Tradition carries on as Cullis takes charge

IT was one of the most important moments in Wolves' history – Cullis taking over as manager.

And now history has repeated itself, with Cullis once again appointed as manager of Wolves.

More than 50 years after Stan was sacked as Wolves boss, his cousin's grandson has been hired to run the club's women's team.

Stan Cullis was of course the most successful manager in Molineux history, winning three league titles and two FA Cups between 1949 and 1960.

And his distant relative said he was 'honoured' to be appointed.

Steve previously managed the reserve team at Wolves Women and has now stepped up as first team manager.

He temporarily took charge towards the end of last season after the departure of Trevor Mullings.

The Wolves Girls & Women's committee said they were impressed with Cullis' hunger and desire to move the club forward.

And Cullis said: "I'm honoured to be appointed into this role, I'm looking forward to getting started.

"The final few games of last season showed me that we have the ability to get out of the league we have found ourselves in. It's time to rebuild and put the club back on the map."

Cullis will have club captain Anna Perks alongside him at player-assistant manager.

The new boss added: "Anna's introduction into the coaching team, just builds on the great work she has done as club captain in the last few seasons.

"She is a great role model and her experience will be vital over the course of a season."

Aston raging to get to next opponent

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston has "pity" for his next opponent as he gets a controversial defeat for the Midlands light middleweight title out of his system, *writes Craig Birch*.

Just a month will have elapsed since his previous outing when Aston steps through the ropes at the Chase Leisure Centre in Cannock.

Aston was outpointed by champion Jason Welborn, from Rowley Regis, in a result that sparked huge debate at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on June 6.

Now a raging "Tank" wants to blast out the never-stopped Edwards Krauklis and make a statement a week on Saturday.

The Peterborough-based Latvian was due to meet Stourbridge's Steven Pearce at Walsall Town Hall this weekend, until he pulled out with a perforated ear drum.

# Brummies battle on to victory

BIRMINGHAM battled to a hard-fought 51-38 victory against Mildenhall – but their win may have come at a cost.

Captain Tom Perry, who had only dropped one point from three rides going into Heat 13, was taken out by Mildenhall's Dan Halsey in an unfortunate fourth bend incident.

Perry was taken to the local hospital for a number of x-rays where the early diagnosis is a broken wrist.

But Team Manager Graham Drury is remaining positive and hopes the injury news is not as bad as first feared.

Said Drury: "It was a nasty looking incident and with the form Tom has been in, it's a real shame - but let's just pray things aren't too bad.

"We lost Adam Kirby after two rides as well and that meant it was another whole team effort to dig deep and get the league points.

"It's great to be ten-points clear at the top."

Teenage sensation Zach Wajtknecht raced to his first ever five ride, fifteen-point maximum on a faultless night for the 17-year-old.

Adam Ellis was only denied a paid maximum himself when mechanical gremlins crept in his second outing when leading.

Guest reserve Charley Powell looked really impressive on his National League debut and potentially put himself in the frame for the No.6 race

jacket on a full time basis. Tom Perry pulled off some spectacular outside blasts before being forced to withdraw while Sam Chapman and Alex Wilson both rode well and once again deserved even more points than they secured. Adam Kirby was also forced to withdraw after a heavy crash.

**Birmingham 51:** Zach Wajtknecht 15, Adam Ellis 11+1, Charley Powell 8+1, Tom Perry 8, Sam Chapman 5+1, Alex Wilson 4+1, Adam Kirby 0.

**Mildenhall 38:** Connor Mountain 11+1, Tom Bacon 10+1, Dan Halsey 7, Connor Coles 5+1, Stefan Farnaby 4, Luke Ruddick 1, Jack Kingston R/R.

National League points: Birmingham 3 Mildenhall 0

# Ellis has perked up at the right time

ELLIS Perks is aiming to cash in on a spell at reserve during July – starting with Cradley's home National league clash with Stoke at Perry Barr next Wednesday.

And Perks believes he can help the club's injury crisis having lost Nathan Greaves to a broken leg and Michael Neale with a broken collarbone.

They're looking to bounce back from defeat at the hands of Birmingham last Wednesday when the Brummies took full advantage of a weakened Heathens side.

Perks freely admits he's been enduring a tough time in recent weeks, but his return to form is a timely boost.

Said Perks: "I've been riding really well again recently, I feel like I'm back to my form from the start of the season so I'm happy with that.

"All my sponsors have stuck by me and helped me heaps which goes a long way, and it's starting to pay off now.

"Hopefully now I'm getting back to form I can start banging in the points on a regular basis again.



**Reserve**

"Unfortunately my scores last month weren't enough to keep me in the main body of the team, but maybe going down to reserve might not be such a bad thing.

"We are having a tough time at the moment with injuries, and having Mikey and Nathan out has made things difficult for us.

"With a depleted team it's nice that I'll be able to have seven rides if we need it, and now I'm finding riding well again I'm hoping I can play a big role this month.

"I'm feeling much more confident again and I'm riding like I was in the first couple of meetings. I was scoring a lot of points then at reserve, so I want to try and do the same again this month."

Cradley have also accepted a challenge meeting at Sheffield on Thursday, July 23.

The club have also confirmed they are continuing their search for a new signing to bolster their side with riders out injured – but so far all their targets have failed because of the July averages.

The Heathens suffered their first home defeat

Heathens' Ellis Perks is looking to give his team a boost. *Picture Johnathan Hipkiss*

of the National League season going down 49-40 to co-tenants Birmingham at Perry Barr.

The injury-hit Heathens put in a brave effort against their in-form local rivals but were unable to hold on to their spot at the top of the table following a narrow loss.

With both Nathan Greaves and Michael Neale sidelined, Will Pottinger's side were heavily depleted as they faced the powerful Brummies.

Yet they fought hard to remain within touching distance throughout before Birmingham stormed clear to record 5-1s in the final two races.

Cradley 40: Ellis Perks 13, Max Clegg 11, Matt Williamson 8+1, Arron Mogridge 5+2, Luke Harris 3+1, Tyler Govier 0, Nathan Greaves r/r.

Birmingham 49: Zach Wajtknecht 14, Adam Ellis 11+1, Adam Kirby 9+3, Tom Perry 9, Sam Chapman 4+1, Alex Wilson 2+1, Sean Phillips 0

# Get set for rollercoaster ride, says Edwards

WOLVES fans should strap in for another rollercoaster ride next season – that was the verdict of midfielder Dave Edwards as the squad returned for pre-season.

Kenny Jackett's team flirted with the top two last season before plummeting and then narrowly missing out on a top-six finish.

And Edwards said the players believe they can improve on last season as they prepare for a promotion assault on the top six. He spoke on the first day of pre-season training where the players were put through their paces at Compton Park in a tough first day back.

Edwards said: "Last year our ambition in-house was to try to be up there battling for promotion even though we maybe weren't shouting it from the rooftops.

"And again this time, we will be one of the teams who will want to be up there in what is a very difficult division. We came close to the top six last season and feel we can improve.

"It's going to be an interesting season, no doubt a rollercoaster as usual, but hopefully with more ups and downs. It is all about consistency, and we showed that in parts last year but had that big drop in November that really cost us. Apart from that we were reasonably consistent and that is what we'd like to reproduce throughout the season."

Jackett has added two players to his ranks in Jed Wallace and Sylvain Deslandes, but more are sure to follow as he looks to strengthen last season's squad.

Welshman Edwards welcomed Wallace's arrival and said he was focused on claiming a first team spot."

# The George have to fight for the victory

**South Staffs Division 1**  
**The George 202**  
**M&B Cheslyn Hay 177**

THE George had to battle all the way to overcome top Staffs side M&B Cheslyn Hay. Paddy McGuinness and Dave Hoffman both won 21-13 in the 1st four but The George found themselves five shots behind.

The middle four managed to reduce the deficit to 1 shot after wins by Steve Fagin (21-7), Darren Wood (21-16) and Ivan Smout (21-19). A strong finish by the back four saw Martin McGuinness (21-4), Eric Winstone (21-5) and Peter Hayne (21-16) all win to record a 25 shot victory.

Warwick & Worcester Premier 1: Moseley 228 The George 203 (Mark Street 21-10). Warwick & Worcester Alliance 1: The George 243 (Kevin Arnott 21-3) Ward End 162.



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## The Chinese take away Ba for £11.3m

ALBION have been forced to move on to other targets after Demba Ba signed a lucrative deal to play in the Chinese Super League.

The Senegal international is reported to have signed a three-year contract worth £11.3m with Shanghai Shenhua in a deal thought to be a record for the league.

The Baggies had been in talks with representatives of the 30-year-old Besiktas striker right up until Saturday and were said to be shocked to see the former Chelsea, West Ham and Newcastle player then opt to play in China.

But it's understood Ba has been persuaded by the riches on offer after agreeing a contract worth an estimated £130,000-a-week with a much lower tax rate on offer in the Far East.

The wages more than double what Albion were prepared to offer.

The Ba fee would eclipse the previous CSL record of £10.6m paid in January by champions Guangzhou Evergrande for Ricardo Goulart.

Ba, who underwent a medical yesterday, made the switch to China from Turkey, where he scored 27 goals in 44 games last season.

Ba joins a big-name cast list of strikers to have played for Shanghai, following Ivory Coast veteran Drogba - Ba's former team-mate at Stamford Bridge - and ex-Albion and Chelsea striker Nicolas Anelka.

Meanwhile, reports linking Albion with a £4m move for Middlesbrough left back George Friend are wide of the mark, according to sources at the club.

The Baggies have an interest in the 27-year-old one-time Wolves defender, who was linked with Crystal Palace last summer when Albion boss Tony Pulis was in charge at Selhurst Park.

## Grounds of abbey provide sightseeing track for runners

IT was a quiet weekend for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club with their sole representative, Andy Morrison, travelling towards Coventry for the Coombe Abbey Half Marathon.

The course was six laps of a 3.5k route over trails and tracks in the grounds of the Abbey.

Although there was a prospect of going dizzy the multi lap event did give runners the opportunity of ticking off large chunks of the distance as they completed each lap.

If they missed something on the route they could always see it next time round and in landscaped grounds designed by Capability Brown there was always something to see.

The event also boasted a full marathon and 10k race following various combinations of the same 3.5k loop.

Morrison resisted the temptation of going off too fast and was pleased with his performance claiming a new PB and the first time he has been under 2 hours for the distance clocking 1.57.12 to claim 31st place.

## Glassboys getting back into training

STOURBRIDGE FC report back for their first pre-season training session at Greenfields this Saturday morning.

Boss Gary Hackett is set to cast his eye over as many as eight trialists as he bids to finalise his playing squad ahead of the 2015/16 season.

The Glassboys play their first friendly match away at AFC Bridgnorth on Saturday, 11th July (3 pm).

Top of his list will be a new striker following confirmation of Luke Benbow's departure from the War Memorial Athletic Ground after three seasons with the club. He has completed a move to National League North outfit Hednesford Town.

### Football

Benbow joined the Glassboys in the summer of 2012 from Redditch United. He had a successful first two seasons, scoring several important goals as Stourbridge reached successive play-offs. He hit 23 goals in his first season and followed that up with 25 goals the following season.

However, a quad and hamstring injury late in the 2013/14 campaign meant he missed the last five games of that season and also the beginning of the first campaign in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League. He returned to the side in Sep-

tember 2014 with a bang, scoring 8 goals in 3 games against Nantwich Town, Trafford and Belper Town, before his injury troubles struck again, and he was to score just once more for Stourbridge in the 3-5 home Birmingham Senior Cup defeat to Rushall Olympic in December.

Benbow scored 57 goals in 129 appearances for the Glassboys.

A supporters meeting will take place in the Glassboys Bar at the ground on Monday, July 6 from 8pm to co-ordinate match day arrangements. Fans who want to help behind the scenes are invited to speak with Club President Hugh Clark and Chairman Andy Pountney.

# HALES' POOR RUN GOES ON

## HALESOWEN Cricket Club's Zain Shahid produced an impressive maiden half-century at the weekend.

However, it wasn't enough to prevent the side slipping to another frustrating result on the road.

After winning the toss and electing to bat first on an outstanding surface the Halesowen innings got off to the worst possible start when Hassan Quami (6), recalled from the second XI, was dismissed caught and bowled by Harry Horsley. Fellow opener Kester Moseley (6) quickly followed but could feel justifiably aggrieved at a very dubious decision by the umpire to give him out caught behind.

When new batsman Tarryck Gabriel chased a wide delivery from Manbir Johal to also be caught behind by Arminder Singh Brar for a duck Halesowen were reeling at 15-3.

Stebbing and skipper Faisal Shahid set about repairing the damage and took the score past 50 before Shahid fell lbw for 26, to another dubious call from the umpire, to be quickly followed by Stebbings for 18. Griffiths (1) also fell victim to the official when also given leg before attempting to pull a wide ball down the leg side and Halesowen were staring down the barrel at 68-6.

### Returning

Will Barrett and Zain Shahid then set about setting Coventry some sort of target and their counter attack had put on 56 for the seventh wicket before Barrett (25) fell to the returning Horsley. Dan Jeavons (20) assisted Shahid who went on to remain undefeated on 51 with Halesowen all out for 158 in the 46th over.

In their reply Coventry lost opener Jack Horsley to the first ball of the innings but solid contributions from Pathan (30), Clements (26) and an unbeaten 62 from keeper Arminder saw the hosts to their target with ease. Coventry won by six wickets with six overs to spare.

Adam Hawker's second XI slipped to a home defeat against Coventry in a match that went down to the wire. Batting first they posted 208-5 thanks to solid knocks from Johal (44), Patel (46), Cox (47 no) and Tromans (43 no). The total always looked slightly under par but Hawker's team stuck doggedly at their task.

## Stripes are back at Baggies



Craig Dawson, Darren Fletcher and Joleon Lescott model Albion's striped new home kit

Albion are back in their traditional stripes as they announced the club's first ever £2m-a-year sponsorship deal.

The Baggies have signed a deal with Asian betting company TLCBET for next season.

And the company's name will adorn a traditional striped shirt with the club, as expected, ditching the controversial pinstripe design after just one season.

The club announced the end of their deal with US-based computer firm Intuit Quickbooks earlier this month with the company signing a new deal to be Villa's main sponsors.

The Baggies infuriated traditionalists a year ago when they abandoned their famous blue

and white stripes in favour of a predominantly white design.

But within days they had announced the stripes would return after one season.

The new Adidas kit will also feature a return to white shorts and white socks - a move likely to win support from a majority of fans.

The new kit is available on pre-order and will be on sale in club shops from July 17.

TLCBET is a leading Asian gaming operator and has been Albion's official Asian betting partner since 2013.

Adrian Wright, Albion's sales and marketing director, said: "Our quest to secure the right partner was very important."

## Whiley wants the singles No.1 spot

HALESOWEN wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whiley insists she will not quit until she is the singles world No.1.

The 23-year-old has proven she is one of the greatest doubles players in the world, after winning five consecutive Grand Slams in 2014/15.

Whiley completed the doubles career Grand Slam in 2014, winning the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open. She retained the Australian Open with partner Yui Kamiji in January but the run of five Grand Slam wins ended in June when the pair lost in the final in France.

And now Whiley, who was born with brittle bones disease, wants to earn that accolade in the individual format. She said: "Singles tennis is very important because I am very successful in doubles but I need to show my dominance in singles because at the moment I do not think I am showing my potential."

"I don't think I will quit tennis until I am world No.1 or with two gold medals (for singles and doubles) around my neck."

"It was amazing to win all four Grand Slams last year and the hardest thing was to come back at the Aussie Open [this year] and win the fifth one. That was where I felt the most pressure."

"Whatever happens - win or lose - I want to play the best tennis I possibly can."

"One hundred per cent, I will be going into Wimbledon to win it. I don't go into any tournament not looking to win and Wimbledon is a special tournament to me and I am hoping we can come back after a horrible loss."

Whiley, who has competed at three Games, will be one of the athletes at National Paralympic Day, designed to promote the Paralympic movement and recreate the magic of London 2012.

## Cycling club riders qualify for finals

THREE riders from Halesowen Cycling Club have qualified to represent the Midlands in the National Youth Omnium Championship Finals.

Lorna Sharples, aged 14, and Ryan Brookes, 12, both qualified in second place in their age group after the qualifying heats.

Jamieson Blain, 13, qualified by taking third place.

The club wishes good luck to all three of their riders who will be looking to make a good showing in the finals this Sunday, July 5, which are being held at Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton.

★★★

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